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New Commander of CIS Forces in Tajikistan Appointed

LD2004083694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0715 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant-Colonel Valeriy Patrikeyev has been appointed Commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. The decision was taken at the CIS summit in Moscow last week, head of the press center of the headquarters for the coordination of military cooperation of the Commonwealth countries Serafim Yushkov told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

He said that former commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan Boris Pyankov and Patrikeyev are currently in Moscow. They plan to go to Tajiikistan together on April 22. It is expected that upon their return to Moscow Pyankov will be nominated first deputy commander of the headquarters for the coordination of military cooperation of CIS countries.

Patrikeyev's nomination is explained with the fact that Pyankov was appointed by the Council of the CIS heads of states on September 24, 1993 for six months.

Patrikeyev is 55 years old. He was born in the village of Bogolyubovo of the Tambov region in Russia. In 1958 he graduated from military school, in 1967—the Frunze military academy, in 1977—the Military Academy of the General Headquarters.

From 1985 to 1989 Patrikeyev was Commander of the Privolzhsky military district, and from 1989 to 1992—Commander of the Transcaucasian military district. Before being appointed Commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan he was subordinate to the commander-in-chief of the Russian Land Forces.

Summit Makes Progress in Strengthening CIS

PM1904153994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

["Commentary of the Day" by Nikolay Kishkin: "Decisions Made To Strengthen Commonwealth. The Question Is, How They Will Look in Practice"]

[Text] How many times have we, after the latest meeting of the CIS heads of state, received with ineradicable hope the agreements reached. True, we have just as often found that, as a rule, they do not work out as planned, or else actually sink without trace. It is no accident that the question of guarantees of the fulfillment of adopted decisions was persistently raised at the summit's concluding press conference, held on Friday [15 April]. It cannot be said that Boris Yeltsin's reply sounded very optimistic; he said that the Council of Heads of State is "not a plant administration in which hard-and-fast decisions are adopted"; rather the heads of state outline a general framework of joint intentions. All the same, the heads of state agreed to monitor the discipline of the fulfillment of decisions adopted since the formation of the CIS. Better than nothing, as they say...

Marked dissatisfaction with the efficiency of the Commonwealth's functioning had been expressed in the proposal to create a Eurasian union recently put forward by [Kazakhstan President] Nursultan Nazarbayev. This idea was expected to receive some kind of development at the Moscow summit, but this did not happen. The Kazakhstani president himself did not come to the meeting, and his fellow heads of state did not discuss the proposal. Judging by the contacts which journalists have had with them in the lobbies, the idea has so far been cooly received. [Uzbekistan President] Islam Karimov, for example, said that it is devoid of practical content and the CIS should not be abandoned in midstream. Nevertheless, the Kazakhstani representative stated that the republic would present a comprehensive program for a new alliance at the next summit meeting.

However, the CIS' reserves of strength are not yet exhausted, as the Moscow meeting showed. Above all, a number of questions aimed at the practical realization of the treaty of economic union were examined. Ukraine acceded to it as an associate member. An Economic Union Commission was set up—true, so far just as an expert working organ. No less important is the agreement on the creation of a free trade zone, in line with which customs duties, taxes, and nontariff restrictions in mutual trade between the CIS countries will be gradually lifted. If this accord proves not to have been a waste of time, it could have significant impact. This is effectively the beginning of the juridical formulation of a single trading area, which will also be more attractive for our "more distant" foreign partners, who will accept the CIS free trade zone as a single international economic subject.

At the meeting in Moscow the issue of securing the CIS' external borders, which had been under examination for several months, was successfully resolved. A joint memorandum on the participation of CIS member countries in guarding external borders in the Central Asian region has now been signed, as has a similar memorandum involving Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus]. Moldavia [Moldova] is also to accede to this memorandum. In this way the unified system of border security is being restored.

In the bilateral meetings which took place during the Moscow summit let us note the accord between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on the future of the Black Sea Fleet, which they decided to share in the proportions of 15-20 percent for Ukraine, and the rest for Russia. But this is only a framework decision. An agreement on the parameters of this distribution has still to be prepared. Judging by the first reactions and by how it is being interpreted by some people in Ukraine, everything will not be so straightforward.

The Moscow summit saw Moldavia's full inclusion in the work of the CIS, which now embraces 12 states—the whole of the former Union except for the Baltic countries. Boris Yeltsin assessed its prospects as follows: "Despite the difficulties encountered in the formation of the Commonwealth, it can be firmly stated that we are now going ahead on the road of developing and intensifying integration processes."

CIS Summit Decisions Boost 'Economic Integration'

PM1904154694 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko article under the "Commonwealth" rubric: "Moscow Meeting Gives New Boost to Integration. The Economy and Security Were the Main Topics of Discussion for the Leaders of 12 Countries"]

[Text] The presidents and prime ministers who gathered last Friday in the capital of Russia, which chairs the Commonwealth's councils, examined more than 35 issues. But there were two main topics. First, ways to deepen the participating countries' economic integration. Second, the states' security and the guarding of the Commonwealth's external borders.

According to Boris Yeltsin, it is a question, above all, of a package of decisions aimed at putting the Treaty of Economic Union into practice. "Economic Union is the fundamental principle of the Commonwealth," he emphasized. "The level of integration of the CIS countries as a whole will depend, in the final analysis, on progress in this area."

Implementing this idea, the participants in the Moscow summit approved two decisions of fundamental significance. They set up the Economic Union Commission and gave the "green light" to the creation of a free trade zone. Commenting on these agreements, Vladimir Mashchits, Russian Federation minister for cooperation with CIS countries, reported that it had originally been planned to create a permanently functioning executive and coordinating organ of the Economic Union—the Interstate Economic Committee—and in this connection to abolish the Coordinating Consultative Committee. The heads of government and experts, however, agreed that it is necessary at present to preserve the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee, but to set up a commission of professional economists under it. Its chief function is to shape the Economic Union's activity and ensure its efficiency. Vladimir Mashchits voiced the opinion that this commission might, in time, be transformed into the Interstate Economic Committee, which will essentially be a supranational organ of the CIS.

A free trade zone is also being created to improve the effectiveness of cooperation. The agreements that have been signed provide, in particular, for the resolution of specific tasks at the first stage of the gradual abolition of customs duties, taxes, imposts, and nontariff restrictions in reciprocal trade. Thanks to this, our experts believe, trade will develop more intensively within the Commonwealth, and the single economic area will become more attractive to foreign partners.

The financial sphere has not been overlooked either. Approval was given here to the concept of the Payment Union of CIS states, which makes it possible, in time, to arrange uninterrupted payments on the basis of the mutual convertibility of national currencies. It is proposed that participants in trade deals will independently decide on the forms of transactions, the currency of the contract price, and the currency of payment, while the states must ensure the convertibility of national currencies in respect of current operations. All the member countries of the Payment Union have pledged to adopt all the necessary acts and to pay the appropriate sums into the charter fund of the Interstate Bank of Multilateral Transactions before 20 May 1994. This bank will commence practical work 1 July.

A new chapter has also been begun in the history of military-political cooperation. The approval for the statute on the Defense Ministers Council, which took into account the structural changes that have occurred recently, was important here. An information report by the chairman of the CIS countries' Border Troops Commanders Council on the state of cooperation in guarding the Commonwealth's external borders was heard. A memorandum was signed on the states' participation in guarding the external border in the Central Asian region. Agreements were reached with Georgia and Armenia on Russia's participation in guarding their external borders. A similar agreement with Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus] was prepared. The appropriate departments were instructed to draw up founding documents on the creation of an aid fund for the Republic of Tajikistan.

Even this short list of the problems resolved has shown that, to use Boris Yeltsin's words, "the Commonwealth states' integration aspirations are starting to be turned into practical deeds."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Apr

LD2004052494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0515 GMT 20 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 20 ITAR-TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI leads with a number of reports from Russia's regions concerning the memorandum of civic peace proposed by President Boris Yeltsin, published under the headline "Russian society wants concord. Do its political leaders want the same?".

Chairman of the Agrarian Union of the Novgorod Region Vladimir Yezhov is quoted as saying that "Mother-Russia and its people are sick and tired of the squabbles in the capital. Unfortunately their destructive waves reach far and wide, even in Novgorod Region. The prevailing instability hampers effective land reforms. If we succeed in forgetting hurt feelings and rally to reach a great and brilliant goal, we shall be able to restore Russia's might and greatness. The fate of the country is in the fate of its countryside".

The same newspaper carries an interview with Yegor Gaydar in his capacity as the leader of the all-Russia association of privatized and private enterprises, set up a year ago. "Today the point is: Russia will have her chances of economic revival only if it develops private businesses. As soon as private enterprises begin to invest in the development of production, a realist hope will arise for the overcoming of the crisis", Gaydar said.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA interviewed the Democratic Party of Russia's economic committee chairman Vladimir Leitland, who said that "Russia will long remember Yegor Gaydar as the former government leader, because under him "only 57 percent of the country's 1990 economic potential remained intact". Leitland calls for revising priorities for the transitional period and leaving the key industries under direct state control for its duration".

The newspaper highlights reports about the two-month festival devoted to the protection of the populace against ecological hazards. The festival began on April 15. One report calls Moscow one of the fifty ecologically "worst" cities, leading the country in the amount of harmful effluents in the atmosphere and liquid waste in its rivers and lakes. The newspaper publishes an appeal to the citizens of Russia from the organizing committee of the two-month action to join the ranks of fighters against ecological hazards.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA splashes the title "Russia has little time left to avert a nuclear disaster" above an article about preparations for an expedition to the Komsomolets nuclear submarine, which sank in the sea of Norway five years ago. The article warns about the possible "ejection of the nuclear load" from the ill-fated submarine. According to the newspaper, it is most important at present to launch and complete an operation to "conserve" the sunk submarine before it is too late.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, who said that the Russian state, even when it acted violently with regard to its citizens, was somehow associated in their minds with an image of "a severe and even unfair father who nonetheless was looking after his children in one way or another". Abdulatipov calls for the restoration and strengthening of the power of the state "in its new functions and new authority". "The state is as strong as its ability to protect the individual", he said.

The press pays much attention to PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Moscow. He is quoted as saying that the Palestinian state favours the convocation of a second Madrid conference on the Middle East settlement, and "hopes to see Russia participate in the peace-keeping forces" deployed on the occupied territories.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA believes that 'Arafat's "meetings in Moscow are particularly useful" on the eve of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Russia.

TRUD (Labour) leads with reports about spring fieldwork, which is particularly difficult this year because thousands upon thousands of hectares of land have been inundated by spring floods, and Russian farmers often find themselves lacking the essentials for coping with the task. More than 80 percent of all farmers no longer "hope for government assistance", the newspaper says. "One third of them lack fuel, seeds and equipment. Few have secured loans ahead of sowing, and those who have are awed by the crushing 200-percent interests on the loans". Specialists predict that grain production is likely to dwindle to 80 million tonnes this year, 24 million tonnes less than the 1986-1990 average.

PRAVDA carries and interview with deputy head of the institute of informatics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Shota Chipashvili, who speaks about the great role played by the late academic Vladimir Semenikhin in designing and developing the country's single automated system of control over its armed forces. "Classified information that was uncovered recently makes it clear that Semenikhin ranks with such great figures in Russian Science as (nuclear researcher) Igor Kurchatov and (chief designer of space vehicles) Sergey Korolyov.

Yeltsin Urges Serbs To Withdraw From Gorazde

LD1904171994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—The international communist [as received] must do its best to achieve a political settlement of the Bosnian crisis, says a statement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin circulated here today by his press service.

"The conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is on the verge of dangerous escalation despite active diplomatic efforts of Russia taken together with the United Nations and other members of the international community," says the document.

"The Bosnian Serb leadership must fulfill its promises given to Russia, stop the attacks and withdraw from Gorazde announced by the United Nations a 'safety zone', enable the introduction of U.N. forces in the area and unblock the U.N. personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The Russian president "confirmed the proposal to hold a summit meeting with participation of Russia, the United States and the European Union and in the presence of U.N. representatives".

"No doubt, such a meeting must be thoroughly prepared. Corresponding instructions have been given to the Russian Foreign Ministry," says the statement.

Urges 'Forceful Measures' To Resolve Conflict

LD1904222394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2207 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 19 (TANJUG)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin assessed on Tuesday evening that forceful measures should be taken towards the resolving of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and again suggested a top-level meeting between the United States and the European Union, with the participation of the United Nations.

Yeltsin said that the meeting should be well-prepared and that instructions in that sense had been given to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Yeltsin assessed that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was facing a dangerous escalation and that the strong measures taken by Russia together with some other countries and the U.N. had not been helpful.

He underscored that the Bosnian Serb leadership had to fulfill their obligations given to Russia, to cease combat activities and withdraw from the area of Gorazde, which has been declared a safe area.

Conditions must also be created for the arrival of U.N. troops to Gorazde and the U.N. staff in Bosnia-Herzegovina must be allowed freedom of movement, the Russian president said.

Moslem and Serb forces have been fighting around Gorazde, a Moslem enclave in southeastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, for three weeks.

Instead of demilitarization, more than 10,000 Moslem troops concentrated in this enclave, from where they launched a heavy offensive on Serb territories in late March.

Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic on Sunday agreed an immediate ceasefire around Gorazde with UNPROFOR head Yasushi Akashi, but Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic rejected the agreement.

The Bosnian Serb army announced that Moslem forces from Gorazde on Tuesday continued heavy attacks on Serb positions in order to cause larger-scale conflicts for which the Serb side would then be blamed and a foreign intervention provoked.

NATO-assigned U.S. planes on Sunday and Monday bombed Bosnian Serb positions around Gorazde, allegedly to protect UNPROFOR members who were actually British special units in charge of guiding the NATO planes to the Serb targets.

The Bosnian Serb army also on Tuesday pointed out that Moslem forces were using buildings where representatives of the U.N. and international humanitarian organizations were housed for their attacks.

Karadzic underscored on Tuesday that he was receiving hourly reports on the situation in Gorazde and that they showed that the Moslem forces would not cease fire and were attacking Serbs on the right bank of the Drina in boat landing operations.

Bosnian Serbs could have entered Gorazde, Karadzic said, but wished to make a safe area of the town. It must be demilitarized and UNPROFOR members should be deployed along a 3-km belt on the left bank of the Drina, where the Moslem part is, Karadzic said, adding that this could be realized immediately as far as the Serb side was concerned.

Foreign Ministry Sees Split on Approach to Bosnia

LD1904182794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 19 April carries a 10-minute program on the process leading up to the statement by Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging the Serbs to withdraw from Gorazde. Presenter Sergey Dorenko opens the program by saying that "at 1617 GMT today the Russian president's statement on the Bosnian crisis came out. You, perhaps, already know about the aggravation and about the fact that the Serbs are in direct conflict with UN forces. I wrote it down as it was dictated to me by telephone—we have just talked with the president's press service— and I will try to recount what I have grasped: The president said that the situation has reached a point of dangerous confrontation. The Serbs have been requested to withdraw from Gorazde immediately, to let the UN contingent pass, to unblock all UN forces, all UN contingents. Also, the Russian president's invitation to the United States and the European Community to hold a summit on the Yugoslav conflict with Russia's participation was confirmed. Signed by Yeltsin, Russian president".

Dorenko goes on to update the situation in the Bosnian region and international reaction to the aggravation of the crisis. He says that "since about 1100 GMT today Moscow has been in turmoil, as we have learned from our sources. The text of the above presidential statement on the Bosnian crisis was being decided. The statement could have appeared earlier if everything had been clear regarding it. After 1100 GMT Vitaliy Churkin met [Duma Chairman] Ivan Rybkin, an hour later he was in Vladimir Shumeyko's office, at 1415 GMT he reported to his minister, Andrey Kozyrev. Before that, at 1405, he cancelled his promise to take part in our program live. Incidentally, he pleaded indisposition—a diplomatic excuse, one should think. The Foreign Ministry was not ready for an publicly announced decision. I will venture to speculate about why there was such a big delay with the statement. The thing is that the Foreign Ministry did not have a unanimous view. We believe that Andrey Kozyrev tried to foresee the development of events and was afraid to acknowledge Russia's clear fiasco in the Yugoslav crisis, while Vitaliy Churkin, who was in charge of the Serbs and could forfeit his career because of his protegees' disobedience, said straight away that he placed all responsibility on them and described their actions as betrayal. Both Foreign Ministry officials could not ignore a third view which maintains that we must fight on the side of the Serbs. It seems that it is for precisely this reason that Vitaliy Churkin spent so much time in Rybkin's and Shumeyko's offices. His refusal to be here live shows that his stand was gaining ground with great difficulty".

Further in the program, over archive footage of 'Arafat's activities, Sergey Dorenko comments on Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Moscow and its goals. He sees Russian involvement in the Middle East peace process as yet another attempt by Russian diplomacy to assert its major international standing. But the Yugoslav lesson should serve as a warning.

Dorenko concludes by reminding the viewers that the program was the first to announce Yeltsin's statement on the Bosnian crisis.

Foreign Ministry Says Bosnian Talks Must Continue

LD1904155494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1457 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—"There cannot be any question of terminating talks with one of the parties to a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia," Mikhail Demurin, deputy head of a directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department, told a briefing today. "The talks must continue. This is our general line and we will not retreat from this line," he stressed.

The Russian side believes that "the only way to resolve conflicts in former Yugoslavia and other parts of the world is to hold political talks." This position, the diplomat said, is the reason why Russia is calling for restraint, compromise, and mutual understanding.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman blamed the so-called "party of war" for inflaming the situation around Gorazde by "recklessly gambling on the achievement of military victory." According to him, this gambling will first of all inflict damage on the Serbian people themselves.

M. Demurin pointed to the inappropriateness of raising the question of lifting sanctions in a situation "where the Serbian troops are at Gorazde." In his opinion, the resolution of this question is being postponed for some time, depending on which way the situation develops." He said that during the recent talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the Russian side promised Belgrade its "most active support" in resolving the questions of lifting the sanctions stage-by-stage. He said: "During the same meeting, other agreements were also reached, in particular, unblocking the situation around Gorazde." The Serbian side gave appropriate assurances, M. Demurin stressed. "However, the words of those who gave these assurances are totally at odds with their deeds," the Russian diplomat said.

Moscow Reportedly Recalling Envoy to Belgrade

AU2004092394 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 20 (AFP)—President Boris Yeltsin chaired Wednesday a meeting of his top advisers in the Russian Security Council expected to focus on the Bosnian conflict. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Russian newspaper SEGODNYA reported Wednesday that Moscow had decided to recall its ambassador to Belgrade Gennadiy Shikin for consultations, heralding a possible severing of relations with the rump Yugoslavia.

The paper, quoting a reliable source at the Russian Foreign Ministry, said that Moscow "no longer believes in the possibility of an adequate political dialogue with the Bosnian Serbs.

"The theories according to which (Bosnian Serb leader) Radovan Karadzic no longer controls his troops are false. It is obvious that there is a deliberate intention (on the part of the Serbs) to prevent any constructive dialogue between the warring sides," the paper said.

The Foreign Ministry would neither confirm nor deny the SEGODNYA report. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Severing Ties With FRY

LD2004114694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] There are many rumors about Russia's position in the Yugoslav conflict. Specifically, today the Foreign Ministry denied a report on a possible severance of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Belgrade.

Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of Russian airborne landing troops, described as speculations reports on a withdrawal of the Russian battalion of Blue Helmets from Sarajevo. He said that this issue has not even been discussed. Also, a group of Russian servicemen was dispatched there yesterday, and today it was followed by another one.

Russian Blue Berets have been serving with UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia for over two years. Two Russian battalions are stationed in the eastern sector and in Sarajevo area. Now their personnel is being relieved, which is a normal rotation. Two hundred paras are replacing their comrades in the hottest spot in the world. They have left for Yugoslavia from Ryazan.

Moscow Said To Urge Tougher Line on Serbs

MK2004081094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report under the "Yugoslavia" rubric: "Russia Washes Its Hands. Have the Bosnian Serbs Lost Their Last Ally?"]

[Text] According to reports from confidential sources, the document drawn up at the Russian Foreign Ministry had a harsh tone: they in Moscow think that the Bosnian Serb leaders hold a clearly unconstructive stance aimed at destroying Muslim enclaves on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the current situation Russia does not see any reason to continue its mediatory efforts. The reserves of goodwill have been exhausted. The world community cannot tolerate the incidents of downright aggression and genocide. From now on the coercion into peace holds the only chance to bring the situation back into a manageable and legitimate framework. This is how the president's statement should have sounded. Boris Yeltsin, however, limited himself to yet another appeal for peace addressed to the Bosnian Serbs and the world community.

It could not be taken for granted that the Russian president, who has repeatedly said that he will not allow the use of force in Bosnia, would sign the text of a diametrically opposed content. It is known, however, that the soldiers who were supposed to reinforce the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Sarajevo received an eleventh hour stand-down signal and are presently heading for the much more secure Croatia. The next step may involve a full evacuation of the Russian battalion from the area of Sarajevo. According to reports received by SEGODNYA, our soldiers, who were initially welcomed in an altogether friendly manner by the Serbs, now have found themselves in the position of invaders. Serb leaders have fully discredited themselves as responsible politicians, a trustworthy source said. Insinuations that Radovan Karadzic and General Gratic cannot control the activities of field commanders are groundless. Evidently, we are witnessing a deliberate obstruction of any attempts to organize a constructive dialogue between the warring sides, a clear violation of undertaken obligations, the desire to impose on the international community the status quo that has come about as a result of territorial seizures that have not been authorized by anyone, presenting the world with a fait accompli.

Be that as it may, the Russian Foreign Ministry has fully lost faith in the possibility of an effective political dialogue with the Bosnian Serbs. The perfidy of our counterparts, the source said, is beyond description. The situation is reminiscent precisely of those as a result of which world wars were unleashed. The world community is facing a difficult dilemma. The possibilities of talks, however, have been fully exhausted.

There is still a question mark as to the stance of the Belgrade authorities, the Foreign Ministry source said. One is getting the impression that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has fallen victim to treachery by his own comrades-in-arms in Bosnia. It is quite possible, however, that he himself may be an accomplice in the treachery. In this case, there is no longer any point in any contacts with Belgrade at all. According to SEGODNYA's information, today the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry decided to recall to Moscow for consultations Gennadiy Shikin, Russian ambassador to the Union Republic of Yugoslavia. In terms of severity, this diplomatic demarche is second only to a break in diplomatic ties.

Thus Moscow has given the go-ahead to NATO's actions in Bosnia.

UN Peace Plan for Yugoslavia Ends in 'Catastrophe'

PM1904144094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy "Commentary": "Catastrophe of UN 'Peace' Plan in Yugoslavia"]

[Text] When last week U.S. Phantoms bombarded Serbian positions in the region of Gorazde ostensibly to protect UN peacekeeping forces, some people may also have thought that what we had here was a desperate desire to contain locally the conflict between the Muslims and the Serbs that had flared up around the city in order to be able to settle the conflict as a whole.

Today, when—as a result of military provocation by the Muslims in this region and in the wake of support for this provocation by NATO military air power—the Serbs have stopped holding back and their tanks have entered Gorazde, the situation has changed abruptly not only in and around Gorazde but in the whole of the former Yugoslavia.

It must first be observed that the UN plan for a so-called peaceful settlement in Yugoslavia is finished. The epithet "peaceful" is no longer appropriate to this plan (after the appointment of a specialist in airborne operations, the British General Rose, as commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in this region, and his being given the right to use NATO war planes against the Serbs), nor is the word "settlement," since after the Serbian civilian population was bombarded and a French reconnaissance plane was fired on by the Serbs, we are talking about the outbreak of hostilities between the Armed Forces of the Serbian Republic in Bosnia and NATO.

In short, the past week's events in Bosnia have drawn a line under more than three years of attempts by the Western community to resolve the Yugoslav conflict by the methods of diktat (both diplomatic and military). Today, everything is starting practically from zero again. And in this zero situation only two possible scenarios can be perceived. Either NATO goes over to full-scale military operations against the Serbs. Or all methods of diktat are stopped and the West recognizes that the Serbs have an equal status as a party to an agreement and starts negotiations which can really lead to a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Balkans (and for this it will be necessary to repeal UN economic sanctions against the FRY).

In either event, it must be recognized today that the United Nations, with its methods of peacefully settling the Yugoslavian crisis, has failed completely as a result of the arrogance of the Western community which decided that after the USSR's collapse and the end of the Cold War, the West could on its own and without Russia's involvement foist a new international order on the world, in which the whole of the rest of the world that is not included in the concept of the "Western community" will carry out the West's instructions.

Bosnian Serb Commander Seen Pursuing Own Agenda

PM1904142794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 pp 1,3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Moscow Tries to Stop Serbs Going Over the Edge]

[Text] Belgrade/Moscow--The Serbs' decisive offensive against the Muslim enclave of Gorazde on 16 April placed Europe on the brink of a major war. It was only weather conditions that prevented NATO aircraft from delivering a new and this time massive strike against Serb positions.

Russian diplomacy is desperately trying to save the situation. President Yeltsin's special representative Vitaliy Churkin went to the Bosnian Serbs' capital, Pale, while Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev paid an emergency visit to Belgrade, where on Saturday night through early Sunday morning he met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

According to the original plan, Kozyrev was to have flown to Yugoslavia no earlier than Sunday. The rapid deterioration of the situation forced him to act without delay. The members of the Russian delegation discovered that the visit had been switched to Saturday only two hours before the flight out.

Addressing the press after the talks with Kozyrev, the Serbian president was unperturbed, repeating again that both Belgrade and the Bosnian Serbs favor a peaceful solution and the only reason for the deterioration of the situation around Gorazde is provocations on the part of the Muslims.

But in private conversations Yugoslav officials admit that there is another reason—the implacable stance of General Ratko Mladic, commander in chief of the Bosnian Serbs. Neither Radovan Karadjic, leader of the "Serb Republic" in Bosnia, nor Milosevic himself can control this man's actions. What with his powerful friends in the Yugoslav army's top leadership, Mladic is to a large extent invulnerable, even where the all-powerful Serbian president is cocnerned.

According to information from reliable sources, two years ago, during Kozyrev's first visit to Belgrade, Russian diplomats pressed the Yugoslavs to get rid of Mladic, who was obsessed with the idea of creating a "Greater Serbia" and was prepared to enter into confrontation with the whole world in order to realize his dream. But Milosevic made it plain that he could do nothing.

Now he is reaping the fruits. The belief among Kozyrev's entourage is that Milosevic's promise to influence the Bosnian Serbs and persuade them to cease firing on Gorazde was entirely sincere. As were Karadjic's assurances, when he swore to Churkin that he would immediately halt the offensive against the Muslim enclave. Despite this, the attacks continued and Serb tanks captured the suburbs of the city that had been declared a "safe area" by the United Nations.

"The Serb military is acting independently, often ignoring the will of the political leadership," a Russian diplomat dealing with the Balkans, who wished not to be named, told IZVESTIYA. "Mladic is a sinister figure. He will not have any compromises. It is his profound belief that neither NATO nor the United Nations is prepared to take decisive action and all their threats are empty ones. Our main task was to convince Milosevic and Karadjic that the situation was far more serious and that events might take a very nasty turn if the Serbs did not respond to the UN demand and pull back from Gorazde."

"In conversation with Milosevic Kozyrev voiced our concern, to put it mildly, over the Bosnian Serbs' behavior. He took a very tough stance," Galina Sidorova—the minister's political adviser—said after the talks. If Belgrade helps to defuse the situation in Bosnia, Kozyrev promised to demand a relaxation of international sanctions against Yugoslavia. There is information that suggests that the Americans were prepared to join the Europeans in supporting Russia's initiative, having hitherto opposed any concessions to Belgrade.

But this can only happen in the event of the normalization of the Gorazde situation. The latest reports from the area do not provide any grounds for optimism, unfortunately. Battles between Serbs and Muslims are continuing and NATO air strikes could be launched at any moment. Even Vitaliy Churkin, who tends not to be pessimistic about things, on this occasion acted out of character, declaring that he did not believe a ceasefire in Gorazde was possible.

If the Serbs continue the offensive, Gorazde is bound to fall. Militarily the enclave is doomed—the Muslim army is incapable of defending it. The capture of the city would be a public slap in the face not only for the United Nations, but for the North Atlantic bloc as well, which would have demonstrated its impotence. Neither Butrus-Ghali, nor the leaders of the Western states can accept this. It would jeopardize the prestige and political future of many Western leaders—and Russia's protests would no longer stop them in that event.

The question for NATO now is not whether to launch another strike against the Serbs, but how to make it as effective as possible. According to information at the disposal of people in Smolenskaya Square, NATO headquarters is working on plans for a ground operation in Bosnia. But that would require a massive amount of preparation and a great deal of time. NATO will obviously have to confine itself to an aerial war in the foreseeable future. Experts believe it would be futile to go hunting for Serb tanks and mortars in mountainous and wooded terrain. A strike against Serb units attacking Gorazde would not have any significant effect either. The Serbs are employing ideal tactics: Rapidly breaking through the enemy's line of defense, they are mixing with the civilian populace, which makes them invulnerable to NATO aircraft.

If Western leaders decide to switch from a show of force to major combat actions, they will be forced to attack the Bosnian Serbs' strategic facilities—headquarters, communications centers, ammunition dumps, and, most important, several bridges over the Drina River, linking the "Serb Republic" in Bosnia to Serbia. The destruction of these bridges would be a terrible blow to the Bosnian Serbs, because it would mean that Belgrade would be unable to come to their rescue.

In that case the conflict would be in danger of developing into a military clash between NATO and Yugoslavia. Belgrade has repeatedly made it clear that it would regard the bombing of the bridges as a declaration of war...

For Russian diplomats this prospect is a nightmare they want to avoid. Unfortunately, the current situation is such that none of the potential scenarios, including that one, can be dismissed.

The efforts of Kozyrev and Churkin have given a ray of hope of a peaceful resolution of the crisis. But the situation as a whole remains critical. According to UN spokesmen, a Serb shell was fall on Gorazde every 20 seconds on Monday morning.

Churkin's Remarks Not 'U-Turn' in Bosnia Policy

LD1904173694 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Commentary by Yuriy Soltan]

[Text] Shrouded in mist and indefinable. This may be the closest definition of the situation in Bosnia. As before, events around Gorazde, one of the six towns declared by the United Nations as safe havens, are giving cause for great concern. Several hours of negotiations by the Russian president's special representative to Yugoslavia, Vitaliy Churkin, with the Bosnian leaders have so far failed to produce any positive results. Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, seemed to have agreed to a cease-fire and a withdrawal of forces from Gorazde and to ensure an unhindered access to the town by humanitarian convoys. But in practice this has not happened.

According to Vitaliy Churkin, a small group of Bosnian Serbs have become sick by the senseless war and are trying to drag into the melee all the other Serbs. They are sowing the seeds of hatred, not only towards the Muslims and the Croats but also to the entire world community. According to Vitaliy Churkin, Russia, as a great and responsible power, cannot allow a group of extremists to use such a policy as a cover for their actions.

This does not mean that Moscow is breaking off its peace efforts in Bosnia. And Vitaliy Churkin's words cannot be interpreted as a Russian U-turn over to the side which seems to accuse only the Serbs for all the sins in Bosnia. It is the firm conviction of Russia's leaders that there ought to be equal pressure imposed on the other side too—the Muslims. It was precisely the Muslims who took the NATO air bombardment of Serbian positions around Gorazde as a carte blanche to launch military offensives, not only in Gorazde but along the whole of the Serbian-Muslim front.

NATO's damaging air raids have become more and more obvious as being ill-advised. Such bombardments did not protect the UN peacekeepers, but on the contrary have put them in a more dangerous situation. The most unfortunate fallout from the air strikes is that the peace process has been imperiled. Reaching an agreement will now be much more difficult.

Regrettably the United Nations Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, believes that it's possible to widen NATO's military operations in Bosnia. He sent a letter to NATO's headquarters asking the alliance to prepare for air strikes not only in Gorazde but in all the other so-called safe havens.

The Russian representative at the United Nations, Yuriy Vorontsov, justifiably points out the dangers in such a step and has warned that Russia will oppose an automatic unilateral decision to carry out new bombing raids in Bosnia.

Events in Bosnia are drawing the republic to a decisive culmination. Either NATO under the United Nations flag will enlarge its military operations in Bosnia—a step that could lead to an escalation of the war, as happened in Vietnam and Afghanistan—or new attempts will be made through political means to reconcile the warring sides and encourage them to return to the negotiating table. Such a possibility still exists. Russia, with other interested countries, intends to pursue this option with all possible vigor.

Moscow's Influence on Serbs Seen as Limited

MK2004080094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Mikhail Karpov report in the "Crisis" column under general headline: "Stop Any Negotiations With the Bosnian Serbs. This Has Been Urged by Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian Federation President's Special Envoy"]

[Text] It seems that the latest negotiations by Kozyrev in Belgrade and Churkin in Pale were used by Milosevic and Karadzic in their purely egoistic interests. In this event it appears that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who accused the Serbs of spinning a web of lies and deceptive statements about their intentions in Gorazde, is right. According to him, "the Serbs are lying to the United Nations and even to their traditional ally, Russia."

This probably accounts for the sharpness of Vitaliy Churkin's statement. Incidentally, the West missed no chance of noting that the Serbs' tactics in Gorazde annoy the Russian leadership. This led to the conclusion that Moscow may not after all have so many levers to influence them. And even that relations between it and Belgrade are not as friendly as was thought earlier. In this context it is supposed that President Yeltsin, whose statement on the Bosnian crisis was expected yesterday, will take all this into account and start cooperating with the West more closely. It is unlikely, however, that the presidential statement will coincide in tone with Churkin's pronouncements.

The latter, if facing far from easy explanations to the parliament, the unmistakably pro-Serbian mood of the majority of whose deputies is well known. Apparently Churkin will also have a dialogue with the military who up until now have had certain disagreements with the Foreign Ministry's position on a number of issues. It would be premature in these conditions to talk about a radical change of line in Russia's policy in the Balkans. It is clear, however, that it can be essentially adjusted, which does not bode any comfort to the "cheats" from the Serb leadership both in Pale and Belgrade. But in any event, it is hard to expect that on the question of a Balkan settlement Russia will resort to the children's formula, "the cat has left her kittens...." ["koshka brosila kotyat"]

Russia's Failure To Veto NATO Actions Criticized

PM2004085794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 3

[Yevgeniy Popov article: "A 'Blue Sword' for Hara-kiri?"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The NATO air strikes on the Serbian positions near Gorazde created an entirely new situation in the Bosnian war. The United States and the other Western countries, using the mandate of the UN peacemaking forces, have effectively entered the civil war on the Muslim side. The events of the past few days show that the danger of the internationalization and creeping proliferation of the military conflict in the Balkans is increasing constantly. [passage omitted]

The only way out of the Bosnian confrontation is peace talks, to which the Bosnian Serb leaders have long been urging the Muslims and their U.S. and NATO protectors.

The NATO order to bomb the Serbian positions was given immediately after a telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, who then immediately flew to Belgrade where he held talks that night with Serbian President Milosevic.

It does not seem, however, that even after that any fundamentally new emphasis appeared in Russian diplomacy's bipartite and ambiguous stance, which effectively encouraged the air attacks. Russia is continuing to refrain from using its right of veto to halt the aggression against the Serbs and achieve the lifting of what are essentially genocidal economic sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia. The appeal to urgently convene an extraordinary session of the Security Council has been left in midair. [passage omitted]

After the "slap in the face for Russia's prestige" (to use Sergey Shakhray's well-known emotional verdict), Moscow is apparently still ready to turn the other cheek for further encouragement for the United States and NATO in the same vein!..

Sevastopol Proposes Redeployment of Ukrainian Forces

LD1904165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The special session of the Sevastopol City Council Tuesday took a decision to propose to the Ukrainian leadership to re-deploy the staff and other facilities of the Ukrainian Navy from Sevastopol to another place. The session also decided to consider reasonable the decision by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to the effect that further joint basing of two fleets in Sevastopol was impossible.

The Sevastopol City Council is soon to make a request to the new Ukrainian parliament and the Russian Federal Assembly to urgently help solve, in line with the Massandra Russian-Ukrainian protocol, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

The city council proposed that the presidents of Ukraine and Russia invite a delegation from Sevastopol and the Crimea for the bilateral talks on the Black Sea Fleet scheduled for April 24.

The session adopted an address to the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, which says that the Black Sea Fleet will be Russian and will be based in Sevastopol.

The resolution says that the conflicts between the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy have become constant. Since the matter went as far as to threats to use force, says the document, the residents of Sevastopol, the inhabitants of the Crimea and of other places where units of the Black Sea Fleet and of the Ukrainian Navy are stationed cannot feel safe.

The session denounced the confrontation within the fleet, caused as deputies believe, by a lack of resoluteness and consistency on the part of Ukrainian and Russian leaders.

The city council urged the Russian and Ukrainian peoples to launch a public movement for the early implementation of the Russian-Ukrainian agreements on the Black Sea Fleet.

Meanwhile, Nikolay Savchenko, leader of the Ukrainian Navy press center, told Interfax that the decision on basing the Ukrainian naval force in Sevastopol was outside the competence of the city council. He said that a relevant statement by the Ukrainian naval command could appear shortly.

Ukrainian, Russian Views on Fleet Accord Analyzed

MK1904103094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Koretskiy report in the "Russian-Ukrainian Agreement on the Black Sea Fleet" column: "What Is This Agreement All About? Nothing, Actually"]

[Text] On the evening of 15 April the presidents of Russia and Ukraine signed an agreement on a phased settlement of Black Sea Fleet problems. Moscow's and Kiev's subsequent "explanations," however, suggest that Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk not only spoke different languages but also signed something quite different.

The agreement has left more questions than answers. For instance, the decision to divide the basing of the Ukrainian Navy and the Black Sea Fleet does not even approximately define the location of Russia's naval base in Ukraine. Kiev maintains that this is a subject of future negotiations. The statement by Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk that the base may be leased to Russia to a term of up to five years appears puzzling. There is no answer to the logical question: What next? The fleet's redeployment to bases in the Pacific or the Arctic Ocean, or its sinking, the third in its history? Kravchuk's "promising" judgment about the need for the Ukrainian parliament to ratify the leasing agreement renders any accords senseless. The deputies will "sink" them anyway.

Kravchuk assures that he and Yeltsin have "defined the parameters and percentage ratio of the Black Sea Fleet division" and that all that remains to be done is to work out mechanisms to implement the accords. Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov is somewhat more specific on this question: According to him, Kiev is to have 15 to 20 percent of the Black Sea Fleet. The Ukrainian side has its own interpretation of the accords: According to Ukraine Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, the Black Sea Fleet is to be split in half, and from its half Ukraine will sell Russia the 30 to 35 percent it does not need. Which is not at all identical to what Moscow understands as a "percentage ratio:" Pavel Grachev completely rejects his Ukrainian counterpart's approach. Now Kostikov has not only accused Kiev of a "unilateral interpretation" but also recalled that in talking about such a "nationally sacred thing" as the Black Sea Fleet, there is no room for bargaining.

The presidents have given their governments 10 days to finalize the division agreement. During this time the Black Sea Fleet is to be fully inventoried. And this involves 390 battleships and a still unknown number of coastal installations, from Izmamil to Kerch. Yet it appears that even these "10 days" are understood differently in Moscow and in Kiev. Kravchuk links coordination of the Black Sea Fleet division not with a term of 10 days but with "a full-scale treaty on friendship and cooperation." This will take two to three months at the very least. Furthermore, coordination of "friendship" conditions is likely to proceed in a strained situation. Kravchuk makes no secret of his discontent with Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin. According to Leonid Makarovich, he is ready to recall his signature under his appointment and will do so if "the negotiating process drags out." He does not specify the meaning of "dragging out."

Admiral Aleksey Kalinin, former Black Sea Fleet commander, who is not bound by diplomatic etiquette, assessed the agreement as "a palliative option, preserving tension in the south of Ukraine and in Crimea" and beneficial to Kravchuk. Judging by first reactions from Black Sea Fleet representatives (in conversation with KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondents), there is a restrained attitude to the "strange agreement" in the fleet, and no one there believes in the success of negotiations between Moscow and Kiev officials. The impression is that many Black Sea Fleet servicemen today are inclined to cut the "Gordian marine knot" military-style. That is to say, on the spur of the moment [splecha].

Leaked Paper Foresees Conflict With Ukraine

PM1904142194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Feature comprising leaked document attributed to "'Russia-Ukraine-Crimea' independent expert group," plus comments from Ukrainian Embassy counselor, "independent consultant" Oleg Rumyantsev, Russian Foreign Ministry, and Russian intelligence officer: "'Likely' Plans of Unlikely Adversary"]

[Text] The document that has come into the possession of the editorial office is bound to evoke contradictory comment. Is it a forgery? Another attempt to sound out public opinion? A practical joke?

The latest sensational leak—everyone is still talking about the scandal over the notorious "Theory No. 1"—may well prove to be a canard. But the situation in the Russia-Ukraine-Crimea "triangle" is too serious for us to ignore the confidential document we have received.

About a year ago the Ukrainian Defense Ministry elaborated plans for landing Ukrainian troops in the Kuban and the Don which are to be implemented "in the event of an exacerbation or destabilization of the situation in Russia and a deterioration in relations between Kiev and Moscow to a critical point."

Back then the Ukrainian leadership began to take measures to create arms systems designed for mass destruction. In particular, the Pavlograd chemical plant was set the task of organizing the production of more efficient missile fuel on the basis of technological documentation obtained from Russia's "Soyuz" Production Association. At the same time the Yuzhmash plant has been developing production of tactical missiles, an experimental batch of which was to be produced in the first quarter of 1994.

A number of chemical and biological institutes received additional funding and instructions to step up work to develop binary chemical and bacteriological weapons. The Cybernetics Institute (Kiev) and the "Monolit" MPO [expansion unknown] (Kharkov) began work to study the possibility of recoding the guidance system of the strategic missiles stationed in Ukraine.

In December 1993, concerned at the situation in Russian-speaking areas of Ukraine, Kravchuk instructed the Kiev Psychology Institute to carry out secret sociological studies in the Donbass, Odessa, Nikolayev, Kherson, Kharkov Oblast, and the Crimea, which established that between 50 and 80 percent of the population of these regions advocates unification with Russia or a transfer to its jurisdiction. This prompted the start of the personnel reshuffle among the leadership of power [silovoy] structures and the stepping up of work to staff them according to ethnic and nationalist principles. In west Ukraine, particularly in Lvov, paramilitary camps and volunteer militia detachments began to be set up under the control of the local security services; according to certain of their members, they are being readied in order to "smash the Muscovites soon" (the reference is to pro-Russian citizens of Ukraine).

At the same time Kravchuk and his team attempted via the pro-Ukrainian lobby in the U.S. Congress to secure support for their position regarding Russia, as a result of which they received assurances and approval from Washington for vigorous action with respect to Russia, the Black Sea Fleet, and especially Crimea and Ukraine's Russian-speaking population. During his U.S. visit in March 1994 Kravchuk allegedly received confirmation of this.

In late March 1994 the upper echelons of power and Ukraine's power structures actively worked on former Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Bagrov to get him to agree to lead the pro-Ukrainian nationalist movement in the republic in opposition to the Crimean president.

Meanwhile the movement of firearms and other weapons to Crimea, intended primarily for the Crimean Tatars living on the peninsula, from Chechnya was begun via structures in opposition to the republic's president and taking part in deliveries of oil and petroleum products to Crimea.

On 23-24 March 1994 Ukraine's security organs received instructions whereby Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet stationed in Sevastopol were categorized as prime targets of intelligence and counterintelligence interest. In view of this they were set the task of carrying out operational monitoring of the political situation in the region, setting up contacts with the opposition to the Crimean president and total monitoring of the command and personnel of the Black Sea Fleet, and forming in Crimea, especially in Sevastopol, operational combat groups made up of pro-Ukrainian, opposition, and nationalist elements.

The ultimate aim of all these actions is to declare a state of emergency on the peninsula, introduce direct presidential rule by the Ukrainian president in Crimea, and declare the extraterritoriality of the Black Sea Fleet and then make demands for the withdrawal of the Russian troops. At the same time it is believed in Kravchuk's immediate entourage that the Black Sea Fleet problem should be solved through its simple forcible seizure by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The most "convenient" and likely pretext for starting to implement this plan may most likely be the staging of a provocation in Crimea during the holding of the "nationwide poll," resulting in mass disturbances providing legitimate grounds for an "appropriate" reaction by Kiev.

As a result of an assessment of the development of the economic and political situation in Russia, Ukraine, and Crimea the U.S. National Security Council concluded that the preconditions had emerged for the formation of another "trouble spot" in the CIS capable of destabilizing the situation in the Black Sea region.

On the basis of this, they worked out the following as one of the most probable scenarios for the development of events in the region favorable to transnational companies:

Subjective factors will not make it possible to begin normal dialogue between Russia, Ukraine, and Crimea. In these conditions Crimea independently holds a referendum and announces its secession from Ukraine. Ukraine declares a state of emergency in Crimea and moves in its troops. Then a clash begins between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian movements in Crimea, and the troops of the Black Sea Fleet are inevitably drawn into the conflict. Russia is forced to intervene vigorously in the process, as a result of which the two states become involved in a military conflict.

It is very noteworthy that the Americans are currently taking specific steps to secretly evacuate members of the families of embassy officials from Russia by May and to introduce restrictions on travel both to Russia and on the territory of Russia by U.S. citizens.
[Signed] "Russia-Ukraine-Crimea" independent expert group
[Dated] 15 April 1994

Ukrainian Embassy's Reaction

Vadim Dolganov, counselor at the Ukrainian Embassy to Russia:

Neither the embassy nor any other official Ukrainian organs are going to comment on this document. This is all nonsense. But it is rather dangerous. What is assembled here can be gleaned from the Russian mass news media.

I myself come from Kharkov. The document says that between 50 and 80 percent of the oblast's residents advocate reunification with Russia. That is nonsense! It is simply impossible to comment on it. But, once again, this nonsense is tendentious. That is, you can discern a clear attempt to drive a wedge between eastern and western oblasts of Ukraine, which are indeed different in their ethnic composition, and to play the "Crimea card." But, you know, the problem is that the people who are staging this whole thing fail to understand a simple thing, or maybe they do understand it—you could swap Ukraine and Russia around in these dirty documents. And you could say the same thing about Russia.

What is most terrible is that such material is appearing at a time when the Ukrainian and Russian leaders are beginning to reach agreement on some complex problems.

Consultant's Viewpoint

Oleg Rumyantsev, president of the Russian Foundation for Constitutional Reforms and independent consultant on Crimea:

It is difficult to say that this document is totally accurate. However, when I was executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission I traveled to Crimea at the invitation of a number of public associations to find out the attitude taken by Crimea's residents to the draft Russian Constitution and the prospect of restoring our unity (August 1993). At that time I received from extremely well informed sources data partially reminiscent of this.

Russian Foreign Ministry's Opinion

We were told in confidence by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry that no information that Kiev is working on tactical missiles or binary weapons has been officially received by Moscow.

Special Services' Commentary

We learned from a confidential conversation with a senior officer of Russia's intelligence organs that they very carefully studied the U.S. CIA's secret report to President Clinton regarding the situation in Ukraine. This report fell into the hands of the British press by unknown means. Some of its theses chime with the text of the document published today.

Representatives of Russian intelligence services displayed particular interest in those passages in the CIA report analyzing Ukraine's economic position and concluding that, if the present rate of development of the crisis is maintained, the republic may split up within two years, leading to the emergence of several new state formations which will possess nuclear weapons. On the whole, the source noted, the U.S. intelligence agency's conclusions largely coincide with the Russian experts' assessments. Moreover, it was learned recently that Ukrainian military specialists are attempting to decipher the launch codes of intercontinental missiles.

The source also added that he agrees with the U.S. report's conclusions regarding the possibility of a social explosion in Ukraine. Clashes between the Russian-speaking population of eastern oblasts and the west Ukrainians cannot be ruled out here. The source believes that Russia should relax the economic pressure on Kiev and be more flexible in its approach to the problems of Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet.

Duma Commitees, U.S. Senators To Discuss Start II

LD2004083394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0551 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Preparations for the ratification of the START-2 treaty signed on January 3 will be the focus of a meeting between a number of committees of the Russian State Duma and two U.S. senators, Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, coming to Moscow in mid-May, the defense committee chairperson, Sergey Yushenkov, told a State Duma session Tuesday.

The session was told that the ratification of START-2 should follow the enacting of its predecessor, START-1, signed on July 31 1991.

Despite the fact that the treaty has already been ratified by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan since the break-up of the Soviet Union, it will come into force only after the exchange of ratification letters with the USA. The session was told that the process is hindered by Ukraine where "political struggle for this or that status as a nuclear state is going on," according to the head of the disarmament department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Oleg Sokolov.

As many as 3,800-4,250 nuclear ammo will be destroyed during the first stage of the START-2 treaty's implementation, which will last for seven years—the same as the START-1 treaty. Another 3,000- 3,500 items of nuclear ammunition will be destroyed during the second stage which will last until 2003.

U.S. Organization Makes Recommendation on Loans

LD1904165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The U.S. Chamber of Trade and Commerce [USCTC] in Russia, uniting about 180 companies has recommended its members to refrain from lending credit to juridical persons in Russia, head of the USCTC Investment Committee George Reese said speaking in Moscow on Tuesday.

He said that a number of Russian government officials were informed about the move following the misinterpretation of President Yeltsin's decree of last December by some members of the Russian taxation bodies. They appear to interpret the decree as a cancellation of a provision of the law on the value added tax whereby credits are exempt from VAT. This enables tax collectors to levy a 23 percent tax on foreign credits to Russian juridical persons which is unacceptable to their foreign partners, Reese said.

U.S. company officials taking part in a news conference described the situation as extreme and demanded immediate clarifications from the Russian government. Until then, we will refrain from any investment here, member of the USCTC Board of Directors Larry Anderson said.

For his part, Reese said that granting loans in conditions of such commercial uncertainty were fraught with dire implications for U.S. companies. A refusal to provide credits will restrict the flow of much-sought investment in the Russian economy, he said.

Further Reportage on PLO Chairman 'Arafat's Visit

Meets With Interior Minister

LD1904154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Interior Minister, Viktor Yerin, and the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, meeting in Moscow Tuesday, discussed Moscow's assistance in creating a Palestinian police force, says the statement released by the Russian Foreign Ministry press center. It provides no further details of the talks.

Meets With Patriarch Aleksiy

LD1904181894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Patriarch Aleksiy II of Moscow and All Russia today received PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in St. Daniil's Monastery. In his introductory speech, 'Arafat said that the relations connecting our countries are very stable and friendly, and that he sees Russia as an example of great humanism. After his introductory speech, the press were asked to leave and the talks were continued behind closed doors.

Praises Russian Role in Peace Process

LD1904162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin received visiting Palestinian president and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat here today to discuss the mideastern situation, the state and prospects for the Arab-Israeli settlement and ways to develop the Russian-Palestinian cooperation.

Comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East remains a Russian strategic priority in the region vitally important for Russia, said the president.

Boris Yeltsin is satisfied with the on-going Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to overcome confrontation and build a solid peace infrastructure despite all the difficulties. He reaffirmed the Russian firm intention as a co-sponsor of the mideastern peace process to render comprehensive assistance to further progress at Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In his turn, Yasir 'Arafat praised Russian contribution to the mideastern peace process and achievement of positive results in the Arab-Israeli dialogue. In his opinion, Russian diplomatic efforts has played a considerable role in settlement of difficulties resulting from the February tragedy in Hebron, as well as in the implementation of measures to consolidate Palestinian security in fulfilment of the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 904.

The PLO leader thanked Russia for its intention to help Palestinians in the organization of self-government in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

The sides stressed their striving to consolidate historical relations between Russia and the Arab people of Palestine, the presidential press service reports.

Kozyrev, 'Arafat Hold News Conference

LD1904152194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Babkin and Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 19 Apr—Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev today paid tribute to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, for the responsibility and courage he has shown to establish peace in the Near East. At a news conference, he summed up the results of the talks which have taken place with the Palestinian side at the Foreign Ministry's residence. These talks covered a wide range of issues connected with a Near East settlement and bilateral relations.

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry said that at the talks in Moscow the sides continued the Palestinian-Russian dialogue which has been going on for several years now and which was given powerful impetus as a result of President Boris Yeltsin's initiative. This initiative was discussed by the sides in Tunis, where a "bold and fundamental" political decision was made to return to the negotiating table in spite of existing difficulties. "Today we discussed those difficulties, we know about them, and we are determined to eliminate all obstacles to a comprehensive settlement," the minister stressed. He assured Y. 'Arafat of Russian support for the PLO's policy of opposing extremists, and noted that the heads of state of Palestine and Russia are in constant contact through the Russian president's special envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk via a regular exchange of messages.

Y. 'Arafat described his visit to Moscow as especially important given the difficult circumstances under which it is taking place. He said: "A double historical, political, and moral responsibility for the situation in the region rests on Mr. Kozyrev, since it was he and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who countersigned the Palestinian-Israeli agreement." Y. 'Arafat said that today he discussed with the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry ways of overcoming those obstacles which are preventing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli "Gaza-Jericho, First" agreement, and namely those "delays and maneuvers" to which the Israeli side is resorting. "I reminded the minister that the deadline under the agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territories coming under Palestinian autonomy expired on 13 April. In spite of this, nothing has changed on the ground," the PLO leader said.

"All of this will lead to time being lost and will allow those forces which oppose the agreement to close ranks and mobilize their actions against the establishment of peace in the region." He warned that the only alternative to peace is anarchy and "Balkanization" of the region. [passage omitted]

After the talks, the sides signed a Russo-Palestinian agreement on the prospects for bilateral cooperation in politics, economics, and culture.

Earlier today, the Palestinian head of the state laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier, and held talks with Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin.

'Arafat Reviews Visit

LD1904214694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1958 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent in Moscow on 19 April; 'Arafat speaks in English throughout with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, what are the results of your conversations with the Russian leaders?

['Arafat] I am glad that I have had constructive and fruitful meetings and conversations with his excellency, President Yeltsin, and Mr. Kozyrev, with the interior minister, and the Duma speaker. After this, a fruitful and warm meeting took place with his Holiness, Patriarch Aleksiy II.

In all of these meetings, particularly with President Yeltsin, we spoke frankly about the situation we are faced with and on how to give renewed impetus to the peace process. We also spoke about the obstacles that have sprung up and how to overcome them with Russia's help. For your country is one of the co-chairmen of the Madrid conference. You and the United States are its co-sponsors, and, as you know, Mr. Kozyrev, along with

Mr. Christopher, appended his signature to the agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel. The United States and Russia have a political and moral responsibility.

For our part we are completely satisfied with the assurances that we have received from President Yeltsin. For he informed us that he is fully involved in the peace process in the region and is striving to achieve a real and universal peace there, particularly between the Palestinians and Israelis.

[Correspondent] However, by 13 April peace had not been established. The agreements that have been signed are not being fulfilled. What do you think about the situation? What are the conditions for the renewal of the negotiating process?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, I am forced to say that the fulfillment of the fall Washington accords have been thwarted and postponed because of the Israelis' maneuvers. You must remember what the prime ministers stressed about dates and borders. Here are the results: 13 December passed by, 13 April passed by. No specific results have been achieved, on the spot. We do not have the results that could have moved the whole peace process forward. We are in a real impasse. We are trying now—talks on this matter have taken place in Cairo and Paris, we have tried to find solutions in order to overcome such obstacles.

For my part, I cannot give any assurances, no guarantees, because everything depends on the Israelis. Their authorities are wasting time for no purpose. They are trying to avoid fulfilling what was already agreed in Washington, agreed honestly, precisely, clearly, and in writing. Why, in my view, are there such delays? Everyone ought to know about this. Because the American administration gave to Israel—it even sold peace earlier even than before the fulfillment of the Washington agreements. It supplied Israel with more armaments and the most up-to-date combat equipment; $10 billion of loans and credits; a huge powerful computer. It would seem that Israel obtained everything it wanted even before the implementation of the agreement. But we Palestinians paid for this, paid the price of peace, before the fulfillment of commitments by the other side. But we do not have this peace. Look, we still do not have our own state territory. One side has obtained everything, and the other—the Palestinian—has paid for this. As you can see, the delay in the deadline for the implementation of the agreement has given the chance to extremists from both sides. They have started to organize themselves and to act against peace. This is the result and this is how we have turned out.

I have to say, unfortunately, that the peace process has lost its credibility. Faith in it has been lost since this breakdown over the time-scale of the implementation of the accord.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I recall your speech in Strasbourg at the Council of Europe to the parliamentarians of 32 countries. You spoke about a ruined economy and infrastructure. How do you hope to reconstruct and rebuild it, to renew it, and to give it a new boost?

['Arafat] But here I should disappoint the Russian people: Our infrastructure has been completely destroyed as a consequence of the Israeli occupation. As I have mentioned during my meetings with the EC ministers—and I met them too, I said to them: Some of you occupied the Latin American, African, Asian countries and conquered their peoples at some time in the past. You were leaving behind states with ready infrastructure: Railway stations, radio, ports, airports, roads, clinics. But the Israelis have destroyed everything themselves and we, the Palestinians, have to begin from scratch. What sort of future do we face? It can either be something resembling the tragedy of Somalia—the people in the Gaza strip are already threatened by hunger—or we can grow into one of the economic tigers—such as Singapore, for example. We have the necessary conditions and talents for this. As you know, the percentage of educated people among the Palestinians is the highest in the Middle East. Even higher than in Israel. But we need help from friends and brothers, as well as help and assistance from the international community. This is one of the issues I discussed here in Moscow. We have also discussed questions of economic relations.

[Correspondent] You are the first Arab leader visiting the new Russia. Pointing to this, I should like to note that there is great potential and many unused possibilities that still exist in our bilateral Russian-Palestinian relations as well as in Russian-Arab relations as a whole. How do you see the prospects for economic, cultural, and scientific relations?

['Arafat] This is not the only thing that links us. In the first place we are neighbors. That is extremely important. I am sure that by ensuring the coordination at all levels, which we really need, we can achieve a lot. I hope that we can achieve coordination on all of these problems, not only in politics but also in economics, education, and the development of agriculture.

I would particularly like to speak about an important sphere of Russian-Palestinian cooperation that I discussed with President Yeltsin and His Holiness Aleksiy II—about Russia's links with Jerusalem, about spiritual and religious links. These are the centuries-old links between the Orthodox Church and the holy places. I think that they will acquire a second wind. In short, we are in favor of cooperation in all spheres and by all means.

[Correspondent] Many thanks for your answers.

Thanks Russia for Support

LD2004092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Babkin and Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—President of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat has expressed on behalf of the Palestinian people deep gratitude to the president, government and people of Russia for their consistent friendly position with respect to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

He was speaking on Wednesday at a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists at the close of his working visit to the Russian capital. Yasir 'Arafat said he appreciated the fact that was the first leader of an Arab nation to be invited for a visit to the Russian Federation after radical changes in this country.

Speaking about the results of his visit, 'Arafat said they were important and constructive. During his meetings with the Russian president, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other officials 'Arafat discussed the most important problems of the Middle East region. In this context he stressed that the Middle East is for Russia not only a point on the map but actually a neighbouring region which really exists.

'Arafat said high-ranking Palestinian officials would soon arrive in Moscow to discuss the development of bilateral economic ties.

As concerns Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the procedure of implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Palestinian leader noted that they are continuing, although not always as smoothly as desired and not always in the sought direction.

According to 'Arafat, Israel is constantly manoeuvering and playing for time. The Israeli troops were due to withdraw from the areas of the planned Palestinian autonomy but did not.

"All attempts of our friends to stimulate the peace process have failed," 'Arafat stressed. "Despite negotiations and accords, the situation remains as it was".

According to him, this trend is seen as favorable only by the extremists on both sides who want to disrupt the settlement process. "If no headway is made along the path leading to peace, the region will be engulfed by anarchy and Balkanisation," the PLO leader said.

He formulated the PLO demands to the Israeli leadership—to speed up the exact and guaranteed fulfilment of the reached agreements. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin likes repeating that there are no sacred datelines, but there must exist commitments which must be realized without delay, 'Arafat said.

Seeks Pressure on Israel

AU2004102094 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 20 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat called here Wednesday [20 April] for Russian leaders to press Israel "not to waste time" in launching Palestinian self-rule when they meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin next week.

'Arafat, at the end of a two-day visit, said that continued "manoeuvering and marking time" by Israel in concluding the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal would only "give a chance to all extremist elements on both sides to undermine the peace process."

"The 13th of April, the final day to finalize the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho passed and nothing concrete happened," he said during a press conference before his departure.

He added that Israel "must bear responsibility in all events" and accused Rabin of stalling the peace negotiations on purpose.

"Rabin is not in a hurry because he has received from America the price of peace: all kinds of armaments, state of the art, including 25 airplanes, the hugest and very sophisticated computers, a garantee for a 10-million-dollar credit, all kinds of financial, economic, political and diplomatic help," he said.

"This had been achieved before the implementation of the accord."

'Arafat called for Russia as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process along with the United States to press the Israeli prime minister, when he visits Moscow next week, "not to waste time." [passage omitted]

Official Views 'Arafat-Yeltsin Talks

LD2004082794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Sidoruk]

[Text] Washington April 20 TASS—"We believe that Russia, as co-chairman of the Madrid process, is playing a most important role in the peace-making efforts in the Middle East and in the endeavours to settle the Palestinian problem fairly," ITAR-TASS was told by assistant director of the Palestinian centre in Washington Sa'id Hamid. "This explains the importance of the Moscow meeting between Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat and Russian President Boris Yeltsin," he added"

The Palestinian representative said the meeting was "exceptionally important". In his opinion, it was a logical continuation of the consistent efforts lately exerted by the Russian diplomacy in the Middle East.

Moscow has always expressed concern over the situation in the region and has done its best to achieve stability there.

"We are thankful to Russia for its understanding of our concerns and anxieties, understanding of the legality of our rights for which we are striving. We are thankful to it for its good offices, which it is ready to offer us," Hamid stressed. He expressed the hope that the Russian president would use his influence to convince Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during the latter's forthcoming trip to Moscow that Israel should fulfil the terms of the agreement on the settlement principles, signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington last September. "The principle of Palestinian self-government will remain a dead letter as long as the Israeli troops remain on the occupied territories," Hamid stated.

Yeltsin Invites Latvian President To Visit

LD1904154194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis has received an invitation from Russian president Yeltsin to arrive in Moscow on April 21 for a working visit.

He said that President Yeltsin had expressed a desire that the two sides sign a package of agreements on conditions for the Russian troop pull-out, which was initialed on March 15.

Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Latvian president that Ulmanis promised to give a reply on Tuesday night.

The spokesman said that speaking with an ambassador Ulmanis had said that on April 20 the Latvian parliament will take a decision on the possibility of the signing of the package of agreements. He said, however, that despite parliament's decision the meeting between the Russian and Latvian presidents would be expedient.

President Ulmanis said that there are problems in the Russian-Latvian relations which should be clarified, including in relation to the Russian president's decision of April 5 which provides for the creation of a military base in Latvia. The emergence of the document caused a wave of criticisms in the Baltic countries and the Ulmanis said that his visit to Moscow, earlier planned for April 20, would be postponed for an indefinite period. prepared by the president's administration, if that is indeed the case."

'Serious Concern' Expressed Over Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1904152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1433 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—The renewed escalation of bloodshed around Nagorno-Karabakh is causing serious concern, deputy chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Department of Information and Press Mikhail Demurin said at a briefing today.

According to the official, the Russian Foreign Ministry, acting as a mediator, rejects attempts made by the conflicting sides, in the given case the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, to extend and consolidify [as received] their positions when the situation has long since taken a turn towards peace.

Recent attacks in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh are being negatively reflected on the prospects of negotiations, Mikhail Demurin noted.

Energy Minister Seeks More Cooperation With Iran

LD1904120794 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 19, IRNA—Russian Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has called for expansion of Tehran-Moscow cooperation in areas of oil and gas.

Speaking to IRNA at the opening ceremony of an international oil and gas exhibition, Shafranik termed the exhibition as a short step taken towards cooperation with oil-rich countries and industrialized world. Shafranik said he was willing to discuss oil and gas cooperation between Iran and Russia with an Iranian delegation currently participating in the exhibition.

In his recent talks with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh in Ashgabat, the need for mutual ties in the said fields were stressed, the Russian minister noted.

The prospect for promotion of cooperation between the two countries depends on Iran's interest in the issue, the Russian minister said.

Iran's pavilion at the exhibition covers an area of 60 square meters in which pictures of Iranian oil and gas facilities and those of operations regarding capping of blazing oil fields and laying pipe lines by Iranian experts are put on display.

Over 200 government and non-governmental companies from 30 countries are present at the exhibit.

Albania Develops 'New Principles' in Russian Ties

LD2004105494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—"Relations between Albania and Russia are being developed on the new principles of partnership, cooperation and mutual advantage. They take into account the specific features of the Russian Federation as successor of the former USSR, as a state with a huge economic and intellectual potential, as permanent member of the U.N. Security Council," Albanian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Arbet Cici told ITAR-TASS.

These are the principles," he said, "on which Albania bases its relations with other states in the interests of the region. They rule out political and ideological servility, which had sometimes existed in the past".

"During the past three years," the diplomat noted, "the new Albanian-Russian relations were backed up by a consular agreement on mutual trips, by agreements on air traffic and automobile service, on public health and the environment, as well as other inter-departmental agreements in the sphere of education, culture, and the arts.

Agreements on the protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, cooperation in the sphere of education, culture, science and technology, as well as a consular convention and several other documents are ready to be signed.

"The laid beginning appears to be promising and is expected to open up promising vistas for cooperation between our two countries," the ambassador said.

Albanian Envoy Seeks Settlement of Kosovo Issue

LD2004093594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0828 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Albania insists that a solution of the Kosovo question should become a component part of an all-round settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, Albanian Ambassador to Russia Arben Cici said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS here on Wednesday.

"We believe that the most efficient means to achieve this goal is to link up the lifting of sanctions against Serbia with an understanding between Belgrade and the Kosovo legitimate leaders on a status of that territory," he noted.

Kosovo, the diplomat stressed, is a component part of the Yugoslav crisis, harbouring a real danger of a new eruption of the conflict.

A solution of the problem of ethnic Albanians making up 90 per cent of that territory's population and experiencing pressure from Serbs, is a must to achieve a lasting and final peace on the Balkans.

Albania is situated next the the conflict zone, Cici continued. Therefore, it is interested in establishing peace and stability in the region as soon as possible. Efforts of Albanian diplomacy are aimed at this goal. Mindful of this, we welcome any initiative or action, no matter wherefrom it comes. The only condition is that these actions should stop war, establish a lasting and stable peace and lead to a just political settlement of the crisis.

Albania has always offered assistance and sincere cooperation to international organisations and states who have friends, influence and interests on the Balkans and who will assume an unbiased obligation for a just settlement of the conflict and prevention of its proliferation.

Their role and responsibility in this respect are invaluable. Russian diplomacy has peculiar features and advantages permitting it to play an important role in the Balkan region, the Albanian ambassador stressed.

EBRD Holds Annual Meeting in St Petersburg

Gerashchenko Calls For More Credits

LD1904215394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The chairman of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR), Viktor Gerashchenko, has called on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to boost credits to purely Russian enterprises rather than joint ventures with participation of western companies. Speaking at the closing ceremony of an annual meeting of the EBRD board in St. Petersburg Tuesday, Gerashchenko pointed out that quite a number of reliable companies capable of maintaining civilized relations with the bank had appeared in Russia. He highly praised the EBRD's efforts in assisting Russia's small businesses and supposed that its dialog with Russian business would be even more productive, if carried out through the CBR.

Commenting on the EBRD's activities last year, Gerashchenko noted that the amount of credits actually used for Russian projects had increased by more than 10 times and reached $120 Mn [million]. In his opinion, the EBRD board of directors might function as the coordinator of various states' efforts for the support of Russian reforms.

EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere pointed out that this body would use a more flexible approach to its relations with East and Central European countries and pay more attention to their small and medium-sized businesses.

EBRD President Stresses Priorities

LD1904204794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development confirms its priorities in the sphere of developing private property and support for small and medium-size businesses, President of the Bank Jacques de Larosiere said at a press conference. He noted that the important sphere is the development of infrastructure, the effective development of the energy industry and further growth of expenditure to ensure nuclear safety.

So far, expenditure in this field have been approved in Lithuania and Bulgaria. Besides, three accounts in the same sphere are being formulated in Russia, the president said.

He also said that during meetings in St. Petersburg three agreements on co-financing had been signed. In particular, the Japanese Export-Import Bank had granted a credit worth 100 million dollars to the Baltic states.

Among the initiatives the EBRD president noted the proposal by managers from Finland, Norway and Sweden to set up a venture fund for northwestern Russia. The fund is designed for post-privatization support of small enterprises in the region.

According to the president, a German representative announced plans to set up a regional venture fund in St. Petersburg, which would be co-sponsored by the Center of Technical Support of Germany. The president also noted the agreements signed recently between Belarus and the EBRD about the reconstruction of the Moscow-Minsk-Warsaw-Berlin highway.

With the participation of the Russian prime minister the EBRD signed on April 17 its first aerospace project. Finally a project on the creation of a modern office building in St. Petersburg was signed, which will be the first investment project of the EBRD in the city.

In conclusion the president of the bank pointed out that the choice of Russia as the country for holding meetings of the bank is not a coincidence, because "the Russian Federation is the main country for our operations."

Board Meeting Concludes

LD1904191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 19 TASS—The third annual meeting of the board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has ended in St. Petersburg after being attended by representatives of 59 states and international organizations-bank shareholders.

The bank managers approved bank activities of 1993 and set future priorities.

Bank President Jacques de Larosiere told the final news conference he is satisfied with the meeting results. The bank's adherence to the development of the private sector was unanimously supported. Special attention will be paid to the assistance to small and medium ventures. Bank-supported projects to help private businesses will be a major sphere of the bank activities.

The bank board has decided to expand its activities in all the 25 post-communist nations in 1994. Each of them will have at least one project. At the same time, Russia will remain the major area of bank operations, said de Larosiere.

Bank credits issued to the Russian Federation increased tenfold in 1993. Russia counts for over 20 projects worth of 1.5 billion ECU [European currency units] from out of the bank's 150 investment projects worth of 3.5 billion ecu. The actual sum of the credit use is so far 120 million U.S. dollars.

Financing of environmental protection projects remains a priority area of the bank's activities. The bank head noted they will pay more attention to safety of nuclear reactors and have reached an agreement on additional allocations for reactor upgrading projects. Three Russian projects of the kind are being discussed.

Another important result of the bank board meeting is the decision to help central and east European plants to enter world markets. Free goods exports is an obligatory condition for their transition to the market economy, stressed de Larosiere.

The bank's 1993 successes, expanded activities and more complicated tasks have raised the question of increased funds, which are amounting to ten billion ecu in accordance with the bank rules.

In the words of de Larosiere, corresponding proposals will be prepared by the bank leadership by the fourth annual meeting of the bank board to be held on April 10-11, 1995, in London.

Panov Views Korea Issues, Ties With Japan

LD1904171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The Korean Peninsula is the only hot spot in Asia and the Pacific which may seriously destabilize the situation in and outside this region. Given this, talks with the South Korean President Kim Yong-sam in Moscow on June 1 to 4 will deal with ways of easing tensions in the Korean Peninsula and with South Korean-Russian relations, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

He believes that the South Korean president's visit to Moscow provides "one more proof of our stable and broadening relations." "We hope that the forthcoming visit will give a fresh impetus to them," he said.

To quote Panov, relations between Moscow and Seoul develop normally and have no unsurmountable barriers, which can be judged from a 40 percent increase in bilateral trade last year.

Panov emphasized that Russia's initiative on the convocation of an international conference on the Korean Peninsula remained in force. "This idea has not been rejected by anyone, although most of our partners give preference to bilateral talks," he said.

He told INTERFAX that Russia had already held consultations with China, Japan and other parties concerned. "No one has removed this idea from the agenda. Moreover, everyone thinks that at a certain stage it may become rather efficient. We don't think that bilateral talks, the way they have been conducted until now, hold any promise. They are not making any progress and only complicate the situation each time they find themselves in a deadlock," said Panov.

He announced that Russia would like the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to adhere to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, we think that it is high time that all the parties concerned worked out a single policy instead of holding consultations on the Korean problem, he continued. A balance of interests must be found, whereby the security interests of both Korean states will be observed, said Panov.

It is difficult so far to talk about the date of the international conference, he went on to say. "We propose that a consultative meeting be held to discuss the agenda," he said.

Asked if the government crisis in Japan would influence Russian-Japanese relations, Panov said that Russia had no fears on this score. Judging by all accounts, Tokyo will not change its policy in relation to Russia whoever heads the Japanese government and whichever parties are represented in it.

Japan 'Positively Views' Moscow Initiative on Korea

LD1904192194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1128 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—Japan positively views the recent Moscow initiative on convening an international conference on the questions of security in the Korean peninsula and its nonnuclear status, according to the formula "six plus two" and thinks it reflects Russia's serious interests in solving the North Korean nuclear problem, stated Japanese Ambassador Koji Watanabe in his exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Having pointed out the similarity of positions taken by Tokyo and Moscow, the diplomat stressed Japan's intention to continue to exchange views on this problems in close contact with Moscow. The ambassador said that questions of easing the situation in the Korean Peninsula, including the problem of Korean unification, are constantly on the agenda in the Japanese-Russian political dialogue.

Watanabe expressed the view that the most important thing at present will be to make sure that the DPRK allows the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors to examine its most suspect nuclear installations in accordance with the recent appeal made by the UN Security Council chairman. The diplomat also pointed at Japan's intention to "resolutely demand" that North Korea continues to remain within the framework of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and adhere to the North-South joint declaration on the nonnuclear status of the Korean peninsula.

Japanese Envoy Says No Change in Russian Policy

LD1904193394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—Morihiro Hosokawa's resignation from the post of Japanese prime minister and the expected formation of a new government in the near future will not lead to changes in Tokyo's policies toward Russia. This was clearly stated by the Japanese ambassador in Moscow, Koji Watanabe, in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Policy toward Russia is one of the most important elements of Japanese diplomacy," he stressed.

The ambassador said that the Tokyo declaration, adopted by the leaders of the two countries during the visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Japan last October had created "a new basis for further progress in Russo-Japanese relations." The diplomat said that "the continuation of constant efforts to develop relations, on the basis of this declaration, is the consistent and immutable policy of our country."

Koji Watanabe recalled that during the visit to Moscow last month by Tsutomu Hata, Japan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister—who is regarded as the principal contender for the post of head of the new government—the parties agreed to advance steadily toward a settlement of the territorial problem, based on the Tokyo declaration. The Russian side stressed its commitment to the policy of deepening reform, and the Japanese side emphasized that there would be no change in its policy of assisting these reforms.

The ambassador indirectly confirmed that the change in the Japanese cabinet would not remove from the agenda the question of a visit to Russia by the Japanese prime minister this year. He recalled that the invitation to make the visit, which Yeltsin conveyed to the Japanese prime minister last October, was confirmed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the Russian government, and Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister, during their recent meetings with Hata. "I think that when Japan has a new prime minister, a specific date for his visit to Russia will be agreed along diplomatic channels," the ambassador said.

ITAR-TASS has learned from diplomatic sources that the Japanese premier's visit to Moscow this year may be preceded by a visit to Tokyo by Andrey Kozyrev in order to prepare for the summit meeting.

Official Expresses Desire To Improve Vietnam Ties

LD1904213694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2026 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Pavel Bogdanov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—During Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's planned visit to Moscow in June, most probably a package of important intergovernmental agreements will be signed. The documents will regulate economic cooperation and political relations between the two countries, a high-ranking source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS.

The head of the Vietnamese Government will pay his first visit to Moscow after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It is considered an important landmark in bilateral relations in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

According to the Foreign Ministry source, during talks with the Vietnamese prime minister discussions will be held on the prospects of broadening Russia's interaction with Vietnam, a traditional ally of Moscow in the Asia-Pacific region.

The diplomat emphasised that the two countries are "successfully coordinating their political steps in the Asia-Pacific region. Useful exchange of views had taken place during meetings between heads of foreign affairs department of the two countries in lobbies of two ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) summits. On a majority of issues positions of the two states coincide or are close, the diplomat added.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Dismisses Nizhniy Novgorod Representative

LD1904145194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] We have received Boris Yeltsin's decree relieving Boris Nemtsov of his post as the Russian president's representative in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast at the latter's request. Yevgeniy Khristyaninov has been appointed as presidential representative in the oblast by a decree issued by Yeltsin.

Nemtsov Remains Governor

LD1904203894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Nemtsov remains the governor of the Nizhniy Novgorod region in Povolzhye. At the same time, President Boris Yeltsin dismissed Nemtsov from the post of presidential representative in the Nizhniy Novgorod region which he had so far combined with the post of governor. This was reported to INTERFAX by Yevgeniy Krestyaninov, who was appointed by Yeltsin as presidential representative in the Nizhniy Novgorod region.

Krestyaninov was chairman of the former Nizhniy Novgorod regional council of people's deputies. Together with Nemtsov on December 12, 1993, he was elected a member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly from the Nizhniy Novgorod region.

According to Krestyaninov, he was recommended to the post of the presidential representative by Nemtsov. "Our region was the only one where the posts of the presidential representative and the governor were combined," he explained.

Krestyaninov noted that he and Nemtsov had good business relations which he hopes will promote further development of constructive relations between the Nizhniy Novgorod region and the federal authorities. In the meantime, the press attache of the Nizhniy Novgorod regional administration Mikhail Levin told INTERFAX that Nemtsov himself proposed to dismiss him as the presidential representative in the Nizhniy Novgorod region.

He was appointed as presidential representative in the region by Yeltsin's decree in the autumn of 1991. Later by another decree Nemtsov was appointed the governor of the Nizhniy Novgorod region, in contradiction of the previous decision.

Yeltsin Aide on Belarus Union, Economy, Reform

PM1904145994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with A.Ya. Livshits, leader of Russian Federation president's group of experts, by ITAR-TASS observer Tamara Zamyatina; place and date not given: "The Political Pendulum Might Swing to the Left, But There Are Still Lots of Things for Conservative Governments To Do in the Country, Aleksandr Livshits, Leader of the Russian Federation President's Group of Experts, Believes"]

[Text] [Zamyatina] Aleksandr Yakovlevich, the mutual influence of politics and economics is an obvious concept. Proceeding from this, how do you rate the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belorussia [Belarus]?

[Livshits] I believe that Russia will lose nothing as a result of this unification, if three conditions are fulfilled. First, monetary and credit emission must be carried out only by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. Second, the Central Bank must act on the basis of Russian legislation and be guided by the maintenance of a weak inflationary regime on the territories of both countries. The third condition is that Belorussian money must be exchanged for rubles at the market rate, not at one "hare" [Belarusian currency] to the ruble.

The first condition is provided for in the agreement which has been concluded. There is no clarity with regard to the second condition. The third has not been abided by. This means that potential harm to Russia's economic interests cannot be ruled out. Therefore changes to Belorussia's legislation are needed for the real unification of the monetary systems.

[Zamyatina] What do you think: Will the union of monetary systems with Belorussia promote the political integration of the CIS states?

[Livshits] It is only in this case that it makes sense. If politicians show signs of moving toward a confederation—signs equally strong as in the majority of citizens—they will be supported by the population. But political rapprochement is something for the future, and national interests must not be waived either in the future or in the present.

[Zamyatina] Since you do not rule out harm to Russia's economic interests because of the political decisions being adopted by our leaders, what is your forecast of the state of the Russian Federation economy in the immediate future?

[Livshits] April and early May are a time for adopting urgent decisions on the reform. The economy can no longer drag the load of enterprises without prospects and hopeless debtors. It will strain itself. Unlike 1992, an attempt to save them by inflationary means will cost a monthly increase in prices at the level of 40-50 percent. This would be a real disaster. We have approached the threshold of crucial decisions comparable with those made at the end of 1991. We must cross it within the next few months: the implementation of the bankruptcy procedure, the organization of promissory note circulation, the new stage of privatization, the activation of

Russian investors from the private sector, the reinstatement of the management of state enterprises, tough measures to strengthen financial discipline.

At present we are keeping monthly inflation down to 8-10 percent. By the yardsticks of developed countries, this is very high. But by CIS yardsticks it is a record. Russia is now the only CIS state where the population's incomes grew faster than prices in the first quarter of 1994. The position of Russians as a whole is also better in terms of the absolute standard of living. In February 1994 it was possible to buy twice as much meat in Moscow on the average monthly Russian wage as on the average Belorussian wage in Minsk, and 32 times more than on the average Armenian wage in Yerevan. So there.

[Zamyatina] Preparations are under way in Russia for the parade of political forces scheduled for 1996. How do you rate the chances of the aspirants to the post of leader of the state?

[Livshits] If you were to ask the question, which of them is to be trusted, I would say: not those who covet power but those who know what to do with it later and how to turn it into something good for the country.

It cannot be ruled out that the political pendulum will move to the left. Not just because of miscalculations by reformers, who gave little thought to the costs of market transformations. The point is that there has always been a great reserve of social discontent in Russia. It still exists. Many people will be found who believe that the market processes are not going the way they should and result in unfair inequality. They will look for reasons and explanations. Not within themselves but in the social system and in bad power structures. This is the national tradition, and it will not be possible to break it.

The wave of discontent which raised up right-wingers in 1991-1992 could well raise left-wingers in 1996.

This will be no tragedy if the reform of the economic mechanism makes serious progress in the next two years and the situation stabilizes. Maybe influential left-wing parties which have nothing to do with the CPSU will be formed during this time, and the voter will at last see that every communist is a left-winger, but not every left-winger is a communist.

At present there are still lots of things for conservative governments to do in the country. Only they are capable of completing the edifice of a market economy. When it is ready and starts to be filled with property, the time will come for some internal replanning. Left-wingers will have nothing to do at the summit of power until that which they will later share has been accumulated—share in fairness or according to some other principle.

World practice unequivocally attests that the most intelligent socialist, if, of course, he firmly follows his own convictions, knows how to fight inflation far worse than the shabbiest conservative.

While there is no stability, the country needs a strong democratic power and a conservative, deideologized, professional government. Everything else is only harmful.

Coup Plotter Trial Case Transferred

LD2004045294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0430 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] has been transferred for further consideration to General of Justice Viktor Yaskin, judge of the Russian Supreme Court. The Russian legislation allows only 28 days for a judge to come up with a decision - in this case, either to resume the court trial of the SCSE or to abort it and close this trial for good.

New Russian Party Holds First Congress

MK1904095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Yekaterina Deynego, Yevgeniy Krasnikov report under the "Party Organization" rubric: "Opposition Regains Strength. Officers Union, Russian State Party Have Held Congresses"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first congress of the Russian Power Party [Rossiyskaya Derzhavnaya Partiya] was held on 17 April. It was organized by Officers Union's activists under Stanislav Terekhov and representatives of a number of left-wing and patriotic organizations and movements (Russian Federation Communist Party (CPRF), Cossack unions, and so forth). To all appearances, the new organization will be modeled on the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (a charismatic leader, strict internal hierarchy) and is apparently designed as an alternative to it. Stanislav Terekhov said in his address that the new party's closest allies should be the CPRF ("Zyuganov's party") and the Russian Orthodox Church. The congress delegates received a paper entitled "On Statehood," which, to all appearances, will become the new party's ideological platform. The state-patriotic document was drawn up jointly by Officers Union and CPRF experts.

Prospects for an alliance between the state patriots and the CPRF, however, will become clear only after the Communist Party's second All-Russia conference, scheduled for 23-24 April. During the conference, the party leaders will have to resolve the dilemma: either they enter the Union of Communist Parties—the CPSU, hewing to the principles of proletarian internationalism and uncompromising struggle against the current regime; or continue as a left-wing state-patriotic party of constructive opposition. Although on 16 April the Moscow branch of the CPRF decided at Yegor Ligachev's initiative to raise the question of the CPRF's joining the CPSU at the upcoming conference, the proposal is unlikely to be adopted. "Zyuganov's party" is gradually becoming a more and more respectable and law-abiding organization that tries to avoid unnecessary conflicts with the current authorities. Typically, its leaders are inclined to hold May Day festivities together with the trade unions, not Viktor Anpilov's communists (this decision was made by the CPRF Moscow branch and others).

One possible form of the CPRF's coalition with the patriotic forces may become the Public Committee for the Rule of Law and People's Power, which was set up yesterday, including both communists and patriots: Stanislav Terekhov, Sergey Baburin, Viktor Ilyukhin, and others.

Denies Support To Rutskoy

MK1904104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 3

[Yekaterina Achalova report: "Opposition Unites Once Again. New Coalition Wants To Do Without Rutskoy and Zorkin"]

[Text] The intransigent opposition has decided to jettison its former "October" leaders. Yesterday, a Public Committee for the Rule of Law and People's Power was set up in Moscow to replace the National Salvation Front [NSF], which was banned right after the October events. The committee's objective will be to continue extraparliamentary struggle and to coordinate the activities of the left-wing and patriotic movements in all regions of Russia.

It is expected that the Public Committee for the Rule of Law and People's Power will be based primarily on the former structures of the NSF, the Officers Union, the Russian All-People's Union, and other patriotic and left-wing organizations. The new committee's founding fathers include such well-known political figures as State Duma deputies Sergey Baburin, Vladimir Isakov, Yuriy Vlasov, and also Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that during preliminary meetings, which took place in an atmosphere of strictest secrecy, they decided not to associate the organization with people who have been blamed for the opposition's defeat in October—Aleksandr Rutskoy, Ilya Konstantinov, Aleksandr Sterligov, and Viktor Anpilov. It was also decided not to give support to the "Accord for Russia" movement set up by Aleksandr Rutskoy and Valeriy Zorkin.

Given that the Public Committee's predecessor—the National Salvation Front—was effectively a club of Moscow politicians, the new coalition's organizers decided to boost their influence in the workers movement. The committee's priority objective was defined as the penetration of the fuel-and-energy and military-industrial sector trade unions in order to persuade them to switch from economic to political demands when calling strikes. The main political demands should include the resignation of the government and early presidential elections.

According to the strategy devised by the Public Committee, one of its "power" centers will be the Officers Union and the Russian Power Party [Rossiyskaya Derzhavnaya Partiya] being set up by its activists (their congresses were held last weekend). It is expected that the Officers Union will step up its campaigning in the Russian Armed Forces and prod servicemen into voicing demands similar to those of the trade unions. Another fairly noteworthy development was the participation in the Officers Union congress by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who has shunned contacts with the intransigent opposition since his election to the State Duma. Now he asked the officers to see him as their ally, and also recommended that they penetrate "the rear of the enemy—the party of authority"—so as to know in advance about the expected actions by the authorities and to be ready to counter them.

Opposition Leaders Address Union

PM1904160094 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 4

[Sergey Turchenko report: "Officers' Council"]

[Text] The Second All-Union Congress of the Officers' Union was held in Moscow 16-17 April. It was perhaps the most impressive forum of the officers' patriotic movement to date in terms of the number of delegations and guests: There were 184 delegates from 21 regions, including nine republics of the former USSR. One hundred and fourteen guests took part in the work of the congress: These included well-known leaders of opposition tendencies and parties such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Aleksandr Barkashov, Sergey Baburin, Sazhi Umalatova, Yuriy Vlasov, Iona Andronov, Vladislav Achalov, and Ivan Shashiashvili.

Given that almost all of them addressed the assembly, the picture of the contemporary state of society given by the congress was composed of a wide spectrum of views and assessments from diverse wings of the opposition. On the main and fundamental issue of today those views proved to be similar, augmenting and developing the report by Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov, chairman of the Officers' Union, and the reports by regional delegates.

The economic situation in the former USSR was described as catastrophic. The defense and security of the former USSR are in an equally catastrophic state. The congress also expressed the unanimous view that there is no possibility of reviving a great union state under the current regime. At the same time it was stressed that the achievement of this aim sacred to every patriot should be carried out in a prudent and well-considered way to avoid giving reactionary forces even the slightest opportunity to provoke a civil war. A civil war benefits only those bent on covering their traces and fending off accountability for crimes committed against the peoples of the USSR.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy urged those present to join his party amd "pressure" the regime from within it. The reply from the presidium was that the Officers' Union is an autonomous, independent organization, but it is always ready to cooperate with those who act for the country's good. Delegates asked Zhirinovskiy to support their demands for the restoration of officers' assemblies in units and combined units, which were unlawfully suppressed by the "democratic" regime.

Serious concern was expressed at the congress that despite the opposition's renunciation of all strong-arm methods of waging struggle, representatives of the regime are ready to stop at nothing to hold on to the power that is slipping out of their hands. In this context the planned exercise involving 27 [Russian] motorized infantry divisions and three U.S. mechanized divisions near Orenburg was seen as the first step in preparing foreign military intervention to preserve the regime.

Speakers reported alarming facts which indicate that a bloody provocation is being prepared for the May holiday as grounds for introducing a state of emergency, which the regime has long craved, since it is no longer able to stay in power without weapons.

In closed session the congress formulated counterprovocation tactics, analyzed the state of Officers' Union organizations at local level, and defined the immediate tasks of the officers' movement.

The breaks between sessions saw people actively joining the Officers' Union. Russian Federation People's Deputy Iona Andronov set the example here, reading out from the rostrum his own application to join the patriotic organization as a reserve junior officer.

On 17 April the officer-delegates held the constituent congress of the Power Party [Derzhavnaya Partiya], the nucleus of which is formed by the Officers' Union. These organizations' aims and tasks were declared to be the same. But the party's social base will be broader. Not just officers, but any patriots who share its program can join.

Official on Russia's Choice Party Formation

PM1904134794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with State Duma Deputy Valentin Tatarchuk by Lev Korneshov; date and place not given: "State Duma Deputy Valentin Tatarchuk: There Is No Going Back to the Past"]

[Text] [Korneshov] Valentin Ivanovich, you are known as a State Duma deputy and executive secretary of the "Russia's Choice" faction. What post do you occupy in the leadership of the new party of the same name?

[Tatarchuk] So far we have a provisional party name but the party itself does not yet exist. It is my and my colleagues' job to form it. What some of us are going to be will be determined by the constituent congress during the selection of the party's leading organs. Naturally, after its program and rules have been approved. Right now I am deputy chairman of the organizing committee to form the party.

[Korneshov] What exactly do you, the new party's founders, mean by the words Russia's choice? The choice of capitalism or some other path?

[Tatarchuk] We are retaining the name of the election bloc and of our parliamentary faction in order to stress the genetic link to the movement to which a considerable number of voters gave their votes last December. It is on this basis that the party program is now being elaborated. Naturally, it will be refined and expanded. But it will retain the fundamental approaches to questions concerning the Federation, economics, ethnic policy, and foreign policy, and to social problems. To us there is an obvious need for the sound reformation of our state in order to create a reliable market economy, freedom of choice for people, protection of human rights, freedom of enterprise, protection of private ownership, and to create normal conditions to develop all types of ownership, while realizing that state ownership in this country will not disappear overnight.

[Korneshov] What sort of social base does your party have?

[Tatarchuk] It seems to us that many people involved in ownership are now appearing as a result of the reforms. This is the nascent stratum of entrepreneurs. As a result of voucher privatization tens of millions of Russians are becoming shareholders, that is to say private owners, and private farming is developing.

[Korneshov] It is known that you will try to rely on the workers aristocracy for support. I have a question here: Is there such a thing as the workers aristocracy in Russia today, in conditions when ZIL is closed and the giants of Altay and other industrial regions are becoming idle maybe not forever but for a long time?

[Korneshov] The workers aristocracy is a somewhat unhappily chosen term. It refers to the section of workers who are fairly highly skilled and who realize that reform must be purposeful and accelerated, but without a further fall in the social level.

[Korneshov] It is known that to a considerable extent the political orientation of parties, movements, and their leaders can now be determined by their attitude toward the president and government....

[Tatarchuk] We are prepared to work constructively in parliament with the government and president until such time as the government and president support the advance of the reforms. If the reverse process is observed we will, of course, state this and defend our line.

[Korneshov] You have had meetings with the president. Could you interpret a little of what was discussed at them for our readers?

[Tatarchuk] We briefed the president on the work we are doing to create a parliamentary-type political party on a platform known to the president. And on questions associated with the slowing down of reforms and the growth of national extremism.

[Korneshov] At your press conference Organizing Committee Chairman Yegor Timurovich Gaydar said in passing that all of us in Russia are Marxist-educated people. As we know, Marxists-Leninists believed that the most effective way to create a party is to set up a party-wide newspaper. Will you, Valentin Ivanovich, have your own press?

[Tatarchuk] That is our dream. But you work for a newspaper and know what that costs nowadays, whereas we do not have such resources. We will rely on already existing publications, specifically on the regional press, which in our opinion needs special support.

[Korneshov] Valentin Ivanovich, since we are talking about finances.... What do you see as the main sources of funding for the party's activity?

[Tatarchuk] We hope that those people and those already established structures which believe that the reform process needs to be made irreversible and continued will give the party material support. We are setting up a fund and are counting on the fact that our supporters will contribute what they can to it. The party will also have a system of membership dues. Although we do not see our party as a mass, amorphous party.

[Korneshov] Please tell us whether the attempt, if it did indeed take place, to involve [singer] Alla Borisovna Pugacheva and other popular people in the process of forming the party was really an attempt or just rumors.

[Tatarchuk] I would like to say that we have made no attempt whatever to "involve" anybody in the party. This applies to Alla Borisovna too. Initially she agreed to sign an address on the party's formation, but then behaved somewhat strangely. But that is really her affair.

[Korneshov] Valentin Ivanovich, there are now a multitude of parties in Russia and the vast majority of them are salon parties, what I call invisible parties. But there are still parties which enjoy a certain popularity. Which of them do you see as your natural allies?

[Tatarchuk] Indeed, several parties and movements could unite in blocs to achieve certain aims. Essentially some of our fundamental approaches toward solving the most important problems coincide with those of the "12 December" group, "Yabloko".... This formation of blocs in parliament would make sense. In many respects our tendencies also coincide with those of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord and a considerable number of the "New Regional Policy" group's members.

[Korneshov] So we are talking about a very broad democratic bloc?

[Tatarchuk] That is our main task—to unite democrats in the face of the impending danger of a backward slide and the threat of fascism. Now is not the time to share out portfolios or leadership.

Groups Give Views on Civic Accord Agreement

LD1904142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—Russian political parties and public organisations assess quite differently the draft agreement on civic concord, submitted for approval by the Russian president. Their assessments range from support in principle (although not without reservations) to unequivocal unacceptance.

The Russian Party of Free Labour (RPFL) has on the whole supported the appeal of the public chamber under the Russian president. However, as noted in its recently released statement, "the proposed form of civic concord in Russia envisages few mutual political guarantees by the agreement's signatories, ensuring its achievement". The party believes that "the governing structures demand more guarantees from public movements, without ensuring social-political stability by reciprocal readiness to make concessions and compromises". The document, the RPFL believes, does not clearly fix the concrete responsibility of governing structures for possible deviations from the initialled agreement.

The All-Russia "Business Roundtable" Association has supported the principles on which the draft on the civic concord agreement is based "in spite of some disturbing theses", and has urged all the political parties and movements to actively help work out mechanisms for its implementation.

The Association of Private Farmers and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia believes that the president and the government should assume a commitment in the agreement to steadfastly expand the land reform.

The "New Russian School", a foundation which rallies teachers, higher and secondary school instructors, workers of juvenile and cultural-educational establishments, has announced its support to the draft agreement.

The Club of "Realists", a moderate centrist organisation, headed by Yuriy Petrov, chairman of the State Investment Corporation, has released a statement objecting to "an illusion of concord or specially concocted myth about concord". The members of the club believe that everything in this agreement "testifies either to the naivety of its authors or to their desire to use this text merely as a tactical weapon to combat everybody who dares not share these or other aspects of the policy pursued by the administration and the government". At the best, the document will play no role at all, and at the worst (and this is most probable) will increase the existing social confrontation, the authors of the statement claim. They have advanced other principles on which, in their opinion, the civic concord agreement should be based.

Further on Party Activity

MK1904115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report in the "Weekend" column: "Party Activists Have Had a Busy Weekend"]

[Excerpt] The past weekend has been rich in party events. On 16 April, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord's [PRES] Federal Council Presidium held its session which considered the results scored by PRES regional organizations in local elections (out of 122 candidates to local power bodies, 27 representatives of the Shakhray party have been elected). Furthermore, the PRES leadership discussed preparations for a "Russia-wide subbotnik [day of voluntarily donated work] of civil reconciliation" as well as a number of questions related to PRES' future activity.

On the same day the People's Party Free Russia's [PPFR] Council met for a session. PPFR honorary chairman Aleksandr Rutskoy and State Duma deputy Vasiliy Lipitskiy took part in its work. The session participants shared their impressions from their organization's activity in the recent period, making a number of decisions aimed at invigorating the performance of party structures, and also discussed changes and amendments in the PPFR's program and rules. The "Rutskoy party" is expected to acquire a "social-democratic" character, but the final decision about the PPFR's ideological makeup will be made at a party congress scheduled for the end of May. It is not ruled out that a number of regional organizations of the "Rutskoy party" will also take part in the congress of a new movement, Accord for Russia [Soglasiye Radi Rossii], which is also to open in May. Meanwhile, PPFR leader Vasiliy Lipitskiy deemed it essential to express his negative attitude to the pending signing of the Memorandum on Civil Peace, noting that real civil accord can be based only on a radical change of course by the ruling elite and the abandonment of "reforms for reforms' sake." Pointing to the high likelihood of a major social explosion in the very near future, Mr. Lipitskiy stated that "in such a situation, public association leaders cannot sign with these authorities an agreement that envisions preservation of the status quo without running the risk of parting with their social base." [passage omitted]

Cossacks Support Draft

LD1904164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 19 Apr 94

[by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—"We, Cossacks, a people of Russia, have always served for the interests of the Russian state, protected the inviolability of its borders and been a guarantor of internal stability of society.

"A meeting of atamans of the Union of Troops of Russia and abroad held on April 16 in the historical capital of Cossack troops - the town of Novocherkassk, approved the draft agreement on achievement of civic accord in Russia," says a statement of the Union of Russian and Foreign Cossack Troops sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and abroad is ready to sign the agreement on "the basis of mutual respect to different outlooks, political convictions, ethnic and cultural traditions and human rights, and carry its share of responsibility for the implementation of the agreement," says the document.

The statement was reported by the Russian president staff's information center.

Shumeyko: Accord To Be Signed by Majority

LD1904130094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—The agreement on civil peace and accord will be signed by the majority of political forces in the Kremlin on April 28, upper chamber speaker Vladimir Shumeyko said in an interview with journalists here on Tuesday. He claimed that "the influence of constructive forces in society now is greater than that of right- and left-wing radicals".

In the speaker's opinion, it will become clear at the agreement's signing ceremony who and why does not sign the document leading to civil accord. The division of political forces into groups will be clearly seen at that time. However, if somebody does not sign the agreement, this will not split the society, since the document will be open for signing after April 28, he stressed.

Asked about the influence of political forces in Russia's life, Shumeyko noted that "centrist parties have a prospect to become influential". This will take place when society will "outgrow an yearn for rallies". The speaker believes that the influence of political parties on Russia is now "purely nominal". In contrast to Moscow, many in provinces do not know what political parties mean and what their role is. People judge about them by actions of their leaders.

Shumeyko claimed that the Russian president should not rely on a single party. He should be "above party movements and rely on the average derivative in order to find the only correct solution as head of state".

The speaker noted that "if we are to judge about parties by factions in the lower chamber, it will be clear that the situation when communists block democrats' decisions and vice versa, persists". This leads to the centre's consolidation, Shumeyko underlined. True, he said with regret, "the centre is being formed not in favour of reforms".

Realists Club Airs Own Version

MK1904100094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Statement by the "Realists" Club on the presidential draft Agreement on the Attainment of Civil Accord, under the "Document" rubric]

[Text] We do stand for civil accord in society. But we oppose an illusion of accord or a myth about accord which is being specially created. In the draft Agreement on the Attainment of Civil Accord, which has been made public by the Russian Federation president, everything testifies either to the naivete of its authors or their desire to use the text only as a tactical weapon in the struggle against those who—even to some extent—do not support one administration and government policy or another. The document's period of validity, its demand for unilateral compromises, its declarative nature, the betting on embryonic party structures that have virtually no social support base in society, a lack of clear- cut obligations to be assumed by the executive branch, the restriction of constitutional rights for entire categories of people, the hastening of the preparation, discussion, and adoption of the document, and, finally, its mechanism of arbitration and sanctions for violating the agreement—all this makes us warn: the document will not have any role to play at best, but at worst (which is most likely) it will, on the contrary, aggravate the standoff in society. The very idea of civil accord may be discredited.

Holding talks on the attainment of accord is, of course, better than not holding them at all. But the result is attainable when it can be attained in reality, not by an earlier set—and apparently politically motivated—date. This is why, while welcoming the president's readiness to strive for civil accord in society, but at the same time thinking it impossible for us to assume responsibility for the consequences of putting into practice the published draft Agreement under the established mechanism of finalizing and signing it, we propose different principles of the Public Agreement on the Attainment of Civil Accord:

1. The renunciation of the use of armed force in resolving any political and social conflicts.
2. The adherence to the current Constitution, while at the same time working out a mutually agreed mechanism of adjusting it.
3. The renunciation by all political institutions and structures of the claim on the introduction of any "state ideology" and the use of "the image of an internal enemy" in their campaigning.
4. All parties to the agreement, particularly chiefs of state structures, ought to conduct policies that are as moral as possible and that would not raise opponents' suspicions of insincerity.
5. The restoration of an independent, strong judicial branch as soon as possible.
6. The determination of clear dates and the mechanism of all elections for all elected government authorities. The parties to the agreement should forgo any changes in the dates or rules of elections. Democratic, free, and regular elections are the best mechanism of realizing the idea of civil accord.
7. Political forces that lay claims on power should publicly pledge to forswear revenge on the vanquished and yet another redistribution of property in favor of the winners in elections.
8. The joint determination of further stages of political reform.
9. The agreed determination of the minimum social standards and the quality of life standards of the population to be binding on any government.
10. The orientation of economic policy toward the domestic market as an engine of Russian economic development, and therefore a precondition for raising the living standards of Russian citizens.
11. A gradual, phased, and agreed upon introduction of a new model of Russia's federal structure and its policy in the post- Soviet space.
12. All parties to the agreement ought to pledge to take part in the comprehensive, full-scale struggle against organized crime, and also to expel those who may have even indirect contacts with any persons, organizations, or businesses dubious in that regard from the organizations signatories to the agreement.

The text of the Public Agreement should be signed by the leaders of public and political movements and organizations, political parties, trade and professional unions, associations of commodity producers, banks, and other corporate structures, and only afterward by top government officials. Those who have signed the agreement will become members of a roundtable which at the same time will be an arbitration agency responsible for exposing violations of the agreement by its individual members.

Yakovlev, Burbulis Address Democracy Conference

MK1904092094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report: "Social Democrats Can Hardly Unite. They Urged Saving Reforms From Reformers"]

[Text] The F. Ebert Fund and the Social Democratic Party of Russia held on 16 and 17 April a conference with the theme "Prospects and Problems of the Development of Social Democracy in Russia." Not only did the conference not produce the impression of reaching some sort of agreement, but not even a discussion: Everyone spoke about his own thing with the result that they could not arrive at anything at all. Not that they were going to. Aleksandr Yakovlev urged everybody to unite for the sake of an imminent reforming and strengthening of democracy.

Gennadiy Burbulis urged "saving reforms from reformers, and democracy from democrats," and stated that tendencies toward disintegration in the country are at an end, and that there are every grounds for stabilization and the creation of a stable party system. Burbulis believed that one should now create a party-political system of centrism rather than a party. Burbulis accounted for the start of stabilization by the fact that the process of structuring society "has brought about several corporate systems that have divided power, resources, and spheres of influence and are now ready to achieve stability." Burbulis recommended that "one's own part be found in the formation of corporate systems since otherwise there are no chances to seriously influence society." Boris Kagarlitskiy (Party of Labor) stated "that boundaries should be drawn rather than a union formed:" "It is hard to speak about uniting even in this room where those who were shooting at each other in October are present." As he put it, "There will be no war, but there will be a devastating struggle for peace" if one attempts to try and unite social democratic forces too intensively.

The conference resulted neither in unification, nor war, nor a struggle for peace—the active politicians and theorists simply pondered a topic of interest to them while most gave little heed to what the others said.

As for prospects of social democracy developing in Russia, in the end the conference did not elicit them.

Shumeyko Proposes Yeltsin for President

LD1904153794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko proposed advancing Boris Yeltsin's candidacy to the presidential elections in 1996. "Boris Yeltsin's stay in office for one more term would only benefit Russia," he told journalists in Moscow. Shumeyko believes that Yeltsin "has no right" to rely on any particular political forces, because none of them reflects the interests of broad sections of the population.

The political parties are mostly concentrated in the State Duma, he went on to say. "Their work shows that polarity in decision- making still persists: democrats are blocking the communists and vice versa," stated Shumeyko. He noted, that centrist tendencies were increasing. Among the centrist parties are the Party of Russian Unity and Concord, Women of Russia, the Communist and agrarian parties, and the New Regional Policy faction, said Shumeyko. However, the center favors conservative ideas rather than reforms, he went on to say.

He told Interfax that Russia should not hasten to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program. The main condition for doing so is joint work, equality and a clear-cut mechanism of implementing decisions, said Shumeyko. "The air strikes on the Serb positions by the US military command suggest that there is no such mechanism even in the UN Security Council," stated Shumeyko.

PCD's New Tactics To Fight Fascists

MK1904125094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed POSFACTUM report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Moscow—On 20 April the Party of Constitutional Democrats (PCD) will hold a press conference at the International Moscow Press Club, subject: "New Order." According to party chairman Viktor Zolotarev, the press conference is going to hear the PCD leadership announce a change in its methods of political activity. As of now the PCD will rely on populism and scandal. "We are going to fight fascism with its own weapons, and we hope to do this as early as this year," V. Zolotarev stated.

Elite Groups Assess Presidential Hopefuls

PM2004102194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Viktor Sergeyev report: "President 'X': Whom to Back? Results of a Sociological Poll"]

[Text] Despite the fact that it is almost two years until the next presidential election, a number of politicians have already started to prepare energetically for it.

Some are creating new parties, like Ye. Gaydar; others are developing the infrastructure of already existing parties and movements at regional level, like S. Shakhray and A. Rutskoy's team; still others, like Yu. Skokov, are strengthening influential all-Russian multisectoral associations, for example the Federation of Commodity Producers, or are actively gathering money, like Zhirinovskiy.

All this varied activity, aimed at creating positions to give them a spurt at the imminent presidential election, is filing past B. Yeltsin's vigilant eye, as he himself put it, or else the eye of the numerous Russian special services now subordinate personally to the president. However, they are scarcely capable of presenting an objective picture of the real influence of potential candidates for Russian president in various social groups today, since the leaders of the special services want to please their Kremlin master too much.

Some food for thought is provided by a poll, conducted in March by the "Vox Populi" service, of the eight most important groups in the Russian elite: the State Duma deputies, leaders of Russian ministries and departments, leaders of political parties, directors, captains of business, top officers in the Armed Forces, mass media editors, and also eminent figures in science and culture—50 people per group.

When they were asked: "Which of the famous politicians is now more capable than the others of leading Russia out of the crisis?"—the following curious data was obtained. B. Yeltsin still occupies first place (21 percent), and second place is occupied by G. Yavlinskiy (13 percent). Over a period of seven months, starting with August of last year, when G. Yavlinskiy was the undoubted leader with 28 percent (B. Yeltsin only had 17 percent), his rating has been falling inexorably. This is evidently connected with his lack—as a politician, and now State Duma deputy—of any specific results which the people could evaluate in a positive fashion. Society has grown tired of fruitless declarations, statements, and promises.

Third place, according to the Russian establishment, is occupied by Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin (10 percent). At the same time, during the past three months, since the pseudo-reformers Ye. Gaydar and B. Fedorov left the government, assessments of its activity have been fairly stable.

Yu. Skokov and Ye. Gaydar, who share fourth place, (9 percent each) are breathing down the premier's neck. However, the trends in the change of influence of these famous politicians on the people who shape Russian public opinion are diametrically opposed.

Since November of last year, when Ye. Gaydar (20 percent) was even ahead of B. Yeltsin (19 percent), his rating has been falling constantly, and indeed particularly sharply since his resignation from the post of first vice premier. Evidently this rapid fall in Ye. Gaydar's personal popularity will not increase the chances of success of the party he created under the trite name of "Russia's Choice," which, in the eyes of the majority of the electorate, is clearly associated with the defeat of the democrats at the December elections.

Yu. Skokov, chairman of the Russian Federation of Commodity Producers, who does not occupy any official state posts and does not make showy statements, has conversely been steadily gaining points during the six months. This can primarily be attributed to his increasing practical work with leaders of enterprises, labor collectives, trade unions, and entrepreneurs, aimed at alleviating the consequences of the rampant fall in production and restraining the growth in unemployment.

Among the top echelons of our society, V. Zhirinovskiy (3 percent) and S. Shakhray (2 percent) received low assessments as figures able to lead the country out of the crisis. As can be seen, Vladimir Volfovich's great popularity among the people does not affect the cold reaction toward him in the top echelon of our society.

It is interesting that S. Shakhray, who literally never comes off the television screens and the pages of newspapers and periodicals, is experiencing a disastrous fall in influence in the eyes of the people who shape our public opinion and who know the people's real worth. In August 1993, he received 13 percent, in October only 4 percent, and in December only 3 percent.

Of course, any public opinion polls are of an approximate and subjective nature. People in the top strata of society are more aware of the genuine professional qualities of people with whom they often come into contact. But at the same time, those of them who have a vested interest in the personal [favorable] disposition toward themselves of specific statesmen and public figures and above all the president and the prime minister, who ensure their interests, can scarcely be objective.

The majority of the population is on the one hand strongly subjected to the influence of targeted propaganda by the mass media, and is inclined to believe in illusions connected with simple solutions to complex problems which demagogues promise. But on the other hand, ordinary people, who have felt at first-hand the consequences of Ye. Gaydar's reforms (it is enough just to mention the mass plundering of savings in the savings banks), as well as of the state activity of politicians such as S. Shakhray, are beginning to draw their own impartial conclusions.

Of course the picture of public opinion obtained is clearly not a complete one. People who have been put forward by the left-wing (and possibly left-centrist) forces are not represented in it at all. Meanwhile their influence in society is very noticeable and it may grow in the future.

Moscow Poll Finds Trust in Leaders Declining

MK1904113094 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 10

[All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion report under the "Sociology" rubric: "Parting With Idols?"]

[Text] The Moscow branch of the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion conducted on 3-5 April a snap poll among 1,620 residents of the capital. The sociologists asked them to "name five or six prominent figures in Russia whom you most trust." Let us remind you that similar previous polls took place on 5 August, 27 October, and 15 December of last year. The dynamics of the answers is characteristic:

	Aug	Oct	Dec	Apr
Yeltsin	27	24	19	13
Yavlinskiy	10	13	16	11
Gaydar	8	15	26	10
Zhirinovskiy	2	1	16	6
Rutskoy	17	5	2	5
Luzhkov	6	6	5	5
Shakhray	9	12	13	5
Pamfilova	-	3	3	5
Chernomyrdin	5	4	2	4
Zyuganov	1	2	6	4

The listed political figures enjoy a relatively greater measure of trust than they do on the whole among Muscovites who have been polled:

B. Yeltsin—among pensioners, executives, and those in the management sphere, servicemen and workers of law and order services, technical specialists, and on the whole among persons of 40 to 55 with a higher education who voted for Russia's Choice and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] in the 12 December elections;

G. Yavlinskiy—among executives and those in the management sphere, technical specialists, and generally among those of 40 to 55 with a higher education who voted for Yabloko and the Democratic Reforms Movement;

Ye. Gaydar—among technical specialists, the military, and workers of the law and order services, executives and those in the management sphere, entrepreneurs running their own businesses, and generally people above 40 with a higher education and who voted for Russia's Choice and PRES;

V. Zhirinovskiy—among white collar workers without special education, workers and men in general, persons above 40 with an education below the secondary level and who voted for his party;

A. Rutskoy—among white collar workers without special education, unskilled workers, specialists in the field of science, education and medicine, pensioners, and generally among those of 40 to 55 with an education below secondary level and who voted for the parties of communists, agrarians, Zhirinovskiy, and against everybody;

Yu. Luzhkov—among executives and those in the sphere of management, specialists in the field of science, education, and medicine, and generally among women, persons above 55 who voted for Russia's Choice;

S. Shakhray—among housewives, entrepreneurs who run their own businesses, technical specialists, military and workers of the law and order services, and generally among women, people of 25 to 40 with a higher education and who voted for the PRES and Russia's Choice;

E. Pamfilova—among technical specialists, pensioners, while collar workers without special education, and women generally, persons above 55 with higher education who voted more frequently for Russian's Choice and Yabloko;

V. Chernomyrdin—among executives and those in the management sphere, technical specialists, women generally, persons above 40 with secondary education who voted for PRES and Yabloko;

G. Zyuganov—among pensioners, military, and workers of the law and order services, and generally men, persons above 55 with an education below the secondary level who voted for the Communist Party, the Women of Russia, and Travkin's Democratic Party.

Among other Russian political figures who are trusted by Muscovites who took part in the poll are N. Travkin, S. Fedorov, and A. Sobchak with 3 percent each; V. Shumeyko, I. Rybkin, K. Borovoy with 2 percent each; S. Baburin, M. Gorbachev, T. Gdlyan with 1 percent each; G. Popov, A. Volskiy, R. Khasbulatov with under 1 percent.

Remarkably, an increasing number of respondents, in each new stage of the poll on trust in political figures, either name no leader they would trust or are generally stumped for an answer. To compare: while there were 36 percent of such persons in December, there were 52 percent in April. A considerable part of Muscovites must feel unprotected today against realities of life which appreciably affects their view of favorite leaders and idols.

Poll: Freedom of Expression Support Declines

MK1904121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed INTERFAX report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Moscow—The political and economic situation in Russia noticeably inhibits Russians' orientation toward the values of democracy and freedom of expression in society. Thus, in the past five years (from December 1988 to December 1993) the proportion of Russian citizens considering glasnost and freedom of expression important for themselves has declined from 51 to 12 percent. This finding has been reported by the Institute for the Sociology of Parliamentarianism directed by Nugzar Betaneli. The poll conducted in March and April 1994 showed that even in Moscow, where democratic trends prevail, the level of socio-psychological intolerance has grown: The number of those who think that not everything in Russia (people, parties, movements, and mass media) should enjoy equal freedom of expression has grown from 28 percent (May 1993) to 43 percent (March 1994), while another 2 percent believe that everyone's freedom of expression must be limited.

Drift Toward 'Social Democracy' Seen

PM1904121294 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Sergey Chugayev: "Pragmatist Communists Drifting Toward Social Democracy"]

[Text] The energy and activeness demonstrated by the Russian president throughout the past week—the visit to Spain, the talks with the CIS heads of state in Moscow—showed that B. Yeltsin is in splendid physical shape and has a firm grip on the helm of state. All these factors naturally affect the domestic political situation in Russia.

It is rather hard to recall another occasion when the Russian parliament has worked as calmly and constructively as during the past week. Yet the week was packed with events every one of which, judging by past experience, could have turned the supreme legislative body into a furious political debating society. However, as we have seen, the Duma adopted a very well-considered decree in connection with the bombing of Serbian targets in Bosnia by NATO aircraft, quite reasonably left it to the president to resolve the problem of the recent Black Sea Fleet incidents (which did much to promote the attainment of encouraging accords), and, last, for the first time in the three-year history of Russia's existence as an autonomous state, began intelligently, in close contact with the government, to discuss the draft state budget.

There was an impression that even the "intransigent opposition" was affected by the general mood and moderated its ardor to a significant degree—the NSF [National Salvation Front] leaders declared that they will refrain from holding May Day demonstrations, while "Working Russia" leader V. Anpilov promised to do everything to ensure that the May Day march by his supporters is exclusively peaceful, announcing that to this end he is even prepared to enter into contact with the authorities.

A familiar phenomenon was demonstrated yet again in the past week: As soon as the president becomes active and energetic, the country enters a period of relative political stability and political groupings converge from the extreme flanks toward the center. And, every time, this notional center becomes more attractive to an increasingly wide range of politicians.

On the one hand, Ye. Gaydar declares the need to create a socially oriented market economy, and on the other, I. Rybkin, former leader of the "Communists of Russia" faction and chairman of the State Duma, talks frankly of his social democratic sympathies in a TV interview. The program documents of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] and the Agrarian Party recognize private ownership and market relations. The conclusion that springs to mind is that we are today observing the formation of a broad social democratic movement in Russia, of which the former communist nomenklatura could form the basis.

One of the main factors that sharply accelerated the pragmatist communists' progress toward social democracy was October 1993. After this, the classical Leninist plan to seize power had suffered a crushing defeat and a line was thereby finally drawn under a stage of the political struggle in which the objective was to seize absolute power, or rather to restore that power to the former nomenklatura.

During the period of reforms a large part of the nomenklatura has adapted quite well to the new economic conditions, not only becoming reconciled to the market, but becoming part of it, since its primary aim had always been the pursuit of its own personal goals. The nomenklatura associated with state ownership gained particularly by the transition to the market.

As a result the communist nomenklatura has become a part of the Russian establishment, and recent trips by I. Rybkin to the United States and by G. Zyuganov to France and the United States showed that it has quite high hopes of becoming part of the international establishment too. All that remained, basically, was to change the labels a little.

Today's criticism of the actions of the president and government by the CPRF and the Agrarian Party, as can be seen from the Duma debates, is not directed toward institutional postulates of any kind, but deals only with the means and methods of overcoming the economic crisis. Which proves that the parliamentary communists are abandoning revolutionary methods of struggle not just in words, but in deed.

The active participation of today's "legal Marxists" in the December elections and their official dissociation from nonparliamentary forms of the struggle mark, basically, the renunciation of Leninism and the beginning of the transformation of the communist party into a party of the parliamentary, social democratic type. The choice is rather brutal—either go underground, or become a respectable party.

Another important factor in the transformation of the communists that can now be observed is their relative victory in the December elections and the relative defeat of the supporters of liberalism. It turns out that power can easily be obtained by legal, civilized means.

In general the changes taking place on the Russian political scene indicate that the country is embarking increasingly surely on the path of market transformations. Taking the objective view, social democracy for Russia is a great step forward—toward the market, and that means toward liberalism.

At the same time it would obviously be a mistake to be deluded by the fact that today it seems that virtually the entire nomenklatura and a vast number of political parties and movements are raising the banners of social democracy. The nomenklatura, as has been said before, is pragmatic and hence apolitical, and will raise whatever banners it needs, depending on contingencies. The anticipated start of a period of bankruptcies and increasing unemployment creates the preconditions for another surge of politicians away from the center and toward the extreme flanks. Thus it would be premature to assume that with the strengthening of social democratic trends in Russian domestic policy a period of stability has set in. An apparently more accurate thesis is that the current political season in Russia is an interim stage in the progress from the ideology of liberalism to social democracy.

The socioeconomic base of social democracy is only just being formed. It must be founded first and foremost on those sectors of the economy that can realistically exist in market conditions. Primarily joint-stock and privatized enterprises. The regional nomenklatura also fits in here, having already succeeded in converting power into ownership. The bulwark of social democracy is the property owners. How durable and broad it is able to become, depends on the speed of Russia's emergence from the economic crisis.

U.S. Figure Said To Advocate Purchase of Siberia

PM2004083194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 5

[Mikhail Aratov "Rejoinder": "After Alaska, Baykal?"]

[Text] Say what you like about our democrats, but they certainly keep us entertained. One minute they are feeding society "version No. 1," trying to accuse the opposition of attempting to destabilize the situation, and when this falls through they come over all innocent and say: But we were only making public a document about "an incipient palace coup." We have been misunderstood. The next minute they are circulating a "directive from Yeltsin" on locating Russian military bases on the territory of former Soviet republics, including Latvia, thereby wrecking the Russian-Latvian talks, and all this is subsequently explained away as a "technical error"—it appears that some clerk or typist is to blame for the whole thing. And now it seems our ears are deceiving us again: "Let's buy Siberia! For a paltry $3 trillion we can save Russia, add seven stars to our flag, and give an entire generation the prospect of unprecedented prosperity"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reported this initiative put forward by the U.S. political scientist U. Mid [name as transliterated] just the other day.

This initiative first surfaced a year ago and was viewed by the public here as gibberish not worthy of serious discussion. But the author of the article "Siberia for $3 Trillion" had absolutely no qualms about writing the following: "It would be interesting to find out what Siberians and Far Easterners, for whom the land beyond the Yenisey is their native region, think about this proposal." Citing the U.S. press, he adduces a whole series of "pieces of evidence" in support of this idea. The sale of Siberia "would be the best way to resolve Russia's problems," since Russia could use the money from the deal "to start the transition to the First World instead of the slide into the Third." The article continues in the same vein: "All Siberia's inhabitants would be U.S. citizens enjoying all the rights and privileges of Americans"; "Russia would be able to pay off all its foreign debts and modernize its infrastructure." And so on.

U. Mid published his scenario in order to "provoke serious discussion of how to extricate Russia from its blind alley." He believes that "economically speaking, this sort of solution is possible." He says that he came across Americans everywhere in Russia, and it was the same story in Hawaii: "Missionaries first of all, then traders, and finally the Navy."

We could safely ignore all this gibberish if it were not published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, which in the very same issue reported that it is "the official newspaper of the state." What is this—another "technical" (in this case editorial) error, or a cautious sounding-out of Russian public opinion?

TRETYE SOSLOVIYE Resumes Publication

PM2004093994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

["Own information" report: "TRETYE SOSLOVIYE Continues To Live..."]

[Text] Publication of the newspaper TRETYE SOSLOVIYE [third estate], founded by Aleksey Adzhubey [Khrushchev's son-in-law] shortly before his untimely death, has been resumed with the appearance of issue No. 12. The newspaper, as is clear from its name, is aimed at representatives of the nascent estate of Russian entrepreneurs and attempts to fulfill the active function of their enlightener.

After issue No. 11 the founders and the editorial board got into financial difficulties (the newspaper does not receive state subsidies). The "debts" to subscribers are now being repaid.

In the present issue the reader will be attracted, above all, to a double-page spread of previously unpublished photographs of N.S. Khrushchev from R.N. Adzhubey's personal archive with her own comments and reminiscences (pegged to Khrushchev's centenary), as well as a number of articles by well known political experts and economists devoted to the most painful problems of Russian society.

Air Flight Structures in 'Collapse'

PM1904145194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 5

[Igor Andreyev article: "The Surprising Thing Is Not That Aircraft Are Falling Out of the Sky, but That They Are Not Doing So Every Day"]

[Text] The seemingly inconceivable twist in the story of the mysterious Mezhdurechensk disaster (aviation history will hardly have known a case where a brand new intercontinental airliner with 75 people aboard was crashed by an adolescent) has shaken passengers so much that it has diverted our attention from a far more major threat. That threat is the almost complete destruction of the flight security system which, maintained by an iron and sometimes ruthless hand, Soviet civil aviation once enjoyed. The collapse of its previous structures, the almost total lack of control by the state over the hundreds of new air companies, and the principle of "profit at any price" have all led, specialists are profoundly convinced, to the horrific upsurge in the number of major air disasters.

The 'Eye of the State' Cannot See Properly; Hence It Is Powerless

Something incredible happened recently in Siberia—the general director of one of the largest air companies, an independent joint-stock company, refused to allow a government inspector aboard one of his aircraft to check the pilots' flying skills in accordance with regulations sanctioned by decades of procedure. This was a totally routine, everyday operation, but one that was absolutely essential to flight safety. In imposing the ban, the general director put forward just one argument, an economic one: Who would answer to the shareholders, that is to say the owners of the aircraft, for their property worth many billions if something were to happen to the aircraft during the inspection flight. Pigheadedness? Willfulness? To a certain extent, yes. But there is also a loophole in the current legislation governing civil aviation operations. Basically, at the present time there is no normative act which compels a company director to go back on his decision. This particular case is exceptional, and inspectors are nevertheless being allowed on board, but it demonstrates both graphically and absurdly that civil aviation and civil aviation safety are in dire need of new legislation at a time when a change in the form of ownership has actually occurred.

The long chain of events leading to a situation in which, say, a crew allows an unauthorized person behind the controls or ignores a red—i.e. warning—indicator on the instrument panel starts a long way away from a specific aircraft or the people who actually violate the regulations. In Moscow, to be precise, where the highest state civil aviation administration organs are and always have been based. Until recently this was the all-powerful Ministry of Civil Aviation, a bureaucratic monster that controlled absolutely everything. Nowadays it is the Air Transportation Department of the Russian Ministry of Transport, whose task is to keep an eye on air companies rather than actually manage them. In other words, with regard to the topic under discussion its task is to deprive air carriers of operating licenses on behalf of the state if they do not meet flight safety standards set by the state.

The chaos in the Russian aviation industry begins with the statutory legal basis of this function which is performed by the state—or the lack of it in our country. Regardless of whether the former USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation was good or bad, the statute on the ministry was ratified by the country's Council of Ministers, i.e. the government on behalf of the state.

Document number two, the statute on the Air Transportation Department, has been ratified by the Russian Ministry of Transport—just notice the difference! Its principal tasks include organizing and implementing state supervision of safety provisions.... Everything would seem to be in place, but take a closer look at this essentially unsubstantiated declaration. The paragraph beginning "the department is entitled" notes, for example, that the department has the right to monitor compliance with transportation legislation. A little later on it states that the department is entitled to suspend the operation of aircraft, airfields, and airports... when it discovers shortcomings that threaten their safety.

But what does "is entitled to" actually mean? "Obligated to" would be clear: A danger has been discovered, do not try to avoid taking appropriate measures! But what does "is entitled to" mean: The right to put violators in order or the right to do nothing?

Transportation legislation. It used to exist in the USSR in the form of the country's air code. Russia, however, is still without a fundamental aviation act of this kind. Which means that it lacks transportation legislation for regulating the activity of this extremely complex sector. The need for it is not a piece of chicanery divorced from real life. The story of the general director and the pilot inspector is graphic evidence of this fact.

The Price of Safety... in Dollars, Rubles, and Lives

Last winter a Russian An-12 aircraft belonging to the domestic company "Avial" landed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo-1 airport. It was flying the Baku-Moscow-Rostov route while temporarily under the flag of the United Arab Emirates. The company was asked to pay just over $8,000 in all, which astonished the company's economists: To land the same aircraft at the same airport but under the Russian flag would recently have cost the company...53 million rubles [R]. Nowadays probably everyone understands the difference between these sums. If it is not clear to absolutely everyone, let me explain: At another airport—Vnukovo—a Russian company must pay R1 million to park an An-12 for 10 hours, whereas a 24-hour stopover at the same airport would cost a foreign company flying an equivalent aircraft just $77.

Having listened to a number of pilots, I am fairly skeptical when I hear their tales about the dire economic straits in which companies find themselves. Nevertheless it is a fact that any institution which is essential to an aircraft's getting airborne is fleecing the companies for all they are worth. Airports for takeoff and landing rights, servicing, and refueling. And Air Traffic Control Service for "airspace".... It is striking that "Rosaeronavigatsiya," which is formally part of the Ministry of Transport system and is therefore a state organization, has raised the air navigation levy to an unbelievable sum. Requisitions for "airspace" now amount to somewhere in the region of one-half the cost of an hour's flying time!

If so much money is needed every time an aircraft gets airborne, how are air companies supposed to comply with safety regulations? With what are they supposed to buy the new technology that is "piling up" at aircraft plants? Are spare parts and kerosene to be used for trial flights of recently repaired aircraft or for checking pilots' flying habits?

According to traditional procedure in this country, the on-board flight recorders of long-haul airliners must be decoded after practically every flight with a view to checking the actions of the crew and the operation of the systems. By no means every company has the necessary apparatus, especially the smaller ones. Which means you have to pay considerable sums to the people who do. And if you want your crews to train in flight simulators, you have to pay the few people in this country who own this apparatus. And if flight simulators are thought of as an expensive piece of equipment even in the West, what hope do we poor sinners have!

Having stopped financing companies altogether, the state seems to have forgotten that it is the guarantor of safety. Moreover, Doctor of Technical Sciences Boris Likhachev, general director of the ALAK air company, tells me that the state levies taxes even on the proportion of the profit spent purely on measures to combat accidents. Professionals, Likhachev says, are nevertheless still spending money to have the necessary work done by the correct personnel and equipment. But what about aviation illiterates, for example, how many of them are currently directors of independent firms?

When the Tu-154 Irkutsk disaster happened, the general director recalls, I rang the department and tried to find out what the problem was and what we would need to do with aircraft of this type. It was with some difficulty that I found out that the engine starter turbine which caused the loss of this airliner had already been playing up, and that there had even been fires, admittedly while the aircraft was still on the ground. But nobody at local level knew about this danger, and so the pilots interpreted the red alarm signaling dangerously high starter turbine revolutions as a false alarm. The former system of notifying enterprises about possible preconditions for accidents has broken down, and a new system has not replaced it.

Yuriy Tarshin, the country's top airman and chief of the Air Transportation Department's Flight Operation Desk, is not sorry to see the old system go since he considers it excessively centralized and impersonal. The current flight safety situation has been described as critical, and the recent accidents as normal in the circumstances.

However bad or dangerous our domestic aviation technology is, Tarshin says, by no means all these incidents happen as a result of mistakes committed by the crews. And even the Irkutsk incident might not have happened if the pilots had known that the red warning signal sometimes operates to indicate real emergencies. Information about eight similar incidents reached the Flight Operation Desk only after the disaster had occurred, and the actions taken by the crews in each of these cases were not taken into account.

The former Main Administration of the Flight Service of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation has now turned into a department, and this department employs just 8 people to inspect flight crews. Whereas before there was a leading pilot inspector for each one of the 40 types of aircraft in our civil aviation, these "super professionals" have now become extinct. The same problems have arisen in the regional administrations where inspectors are subordinated to the Ministry of Transport and where there are no aviation specialists. Ministry bigwigs can only learn about what is going on in the air by examining the coffins of the victims, according to Tarshin. The department, however, lacks bite and is impotent.

None of the department's inspectors has had any experience of an A-310, five of which were leased by Russian International Airlines. The paradox is that these airliners and their crews, which are flying under the national flag, are completely outside the control of the Russian department which supervises safety procedures. The pilots of the airliner which crashed, Tarshin says, were exceptionally well trained, but the presence of children in the cockpit is unfortunately an unalterable fact.

Does the Mafia Give the "OK" for Takeoff?

Alfred Malinovskiy, president of the Russian Federation airline personnel trade union, told me this story. One evening the commander of an airliner which was due to fly out of Pulkovo [St. Petersburg] the following day was called at home. Without introduction, the voice on the other end of the line said: A car will drive up to your aircraft; accept the cargo that it delivers. The commander indignantly replied that he would do nothing of the sort. Whereupon he heard the following threat: Have you thought about your daughter? After all, she goes to such-and-such a school and walks there along such-and-such a street. We also know that your pilot's license needs extending in six months' time. You do want it extended, don't you?

The next morning, as if security procedures at the airport were nonexistent, a car drove up to the aircraft, and moreover not just one car but two. They apparently belonged to different "departments." The two groups started to arguing with one another and got out their pistols. They reached an understanding nevertheless and ordered the commander to accept a cargo from both cars. The pilot made a specious excuse and reported sick. But the aircraft left all the same—with a reserve crew.

Every day, Malinovskiy says, crews are forced to cover for the moonlighting activities and unfinished work of other personnel by flying off with the problems and responsibilities of those remaining on the ground. Salary size is in direct proportion to the number of hours and kilometers flown. If a pilot decides not to take off because an aircraft is not ready, for example, he punishes himself financially, and if he sticks to his principles more than once, you have to feel even sorrier for him because the person in charge of the subdivision will give him the chance to "take a break" on the ground. The same services to which air personnel address their complaints about equipment and preparation at the airfield, the way aircraft are loaded, radio navigation backup, and air traffic control will do everything in their power to make the captious crew's life unbearable.

The number of breakdowns in our aircraft equipment on a normal flight, Malinovskiy says, cannot be compared to Western standards. The systems which give warning of dangers and breakdowns are dogged by false alarms, and the crews get accustomed to this state of affairs. Owing to a shortage of money, routine servicing technology is becoming oversimplified, personnel are simply resorting to reporting faults rather than eliminating the problem, and components and units which are faulty are being replaced with others which are nown to be substandard.

Airport boundaries have become so insecure that trucks belonging to criminal commercial organizations can drive right up to aircraft; the armed escorts, who are often in cahoots with workers at the airport and cargo warehouses, force the crews to take on board tonnes of unauthorized cargo. This could be anything, even munitions and weapons. In order to take off, pilots must squeeze through the net of extortioners and pay for service, fuel, deicing work, towing, takeoff and landing, and parking. And most of all they will do everything they can, even at the expense of safety, to land on the minimum quantity of fuel (which is expensive!) at their scheduled destination rather than a fallback airfield. At fallback airfields pilots are fleeced mercilessly or their aircraft are laid up forever. According to Malinovskiy, pilots are afraid of everything except incidents and disasters....

This is frightening.... It is also shameful because we hear of no radical measures being taken to restore order in our civil aviation, despite 200 deaths in disasters during the past three months. And it also seems the authorities will only start sorting out our domestic air transportation under pressure from abroad. The anti-Aeroflot campaign is gathering strength all over the place, and at the same time a campaign is being launched against its large and small successors alike who are all keen to fly outside our national borders. Is the reborn Russian state really only capable of learning about what is going on in the air by examining the coffins of the victims when there is an outcry from Montreal, the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization?

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Sends Chernomyrdin Letter on Bankruptcies

LD1904134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has addressed a letter to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stressing the need to resolve the problem of default payments and to enact bankruptcy procedures for loss-making enterprises, ITAR-TASS was told today by Aleksandr Livshits, head of a team of experts under the presidency.

Speaking about the need for bankruptcy procedures, Livshits stressed that if this measure was not adopted "the inflation is apt to reach 40-50 per cent at the first stage, by May 1944, and the next spiral of default payments will lead to the Ukrainisation of the Russian economy".

The expert believes that it is just as difficult to legalise bankruptcies as it was to liberalise prices in January 1992. But if that was the first step towards the Russian economy's switchover to market rails, today it is most necessary to make the second step.

Explaining the bankruptcy mechanism, Livshits, who is doctor of economic sciences, noted that a loss-making enterprise should be immediately privatised, turned into an open-type joint-stock society, and temporarily managed by a commission, made up of creditors and representatives of the State Property Committee. The commission will check the accounts of the bankrupt enterprise, will analyse its system of management, and will decide on the commodities it is to manufacture. Only then the enterprise will get the money it needs to restore its efficiency. "Moreover," Livshits stressed, "it will not be necessary to lay off the workers of an enterprise which voluntarily declares itself bankrupt or to lock up its gates.

The president's 4-page message to the prime minister envisages some long-term measures (circulation of bills and reform of banks), as well as some short-term steps. Thereby, Yeltsin assumes full responsibility for the second step of the reform, including the riddance of the Russian economy of inefficient enterprises.

Chernomyrdin Endorses Nizhniy Novgorod Reform

LD1904140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Oleg Deyneko]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a number of documents that virtually endorse the experience of land privatisation in the Nizhniy Novgorod region as an example of land reform in Russia. BUSINESS-TASS learned this from reliable sources.

Attends EBRD Petersburg Meeting

PM1904161194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Yuriy Kukanov report: "Bankers Gathered in St. Petersburg"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Approximately 5,000 bankers, businessmen, jurists, and finance ministers from 57 countries have traveled to St. Petersburg for the third annual session of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], which is being held in St. Petersburg's Taurida Palace.

The Russian side is represented at the international banking congress by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Vice Premiers Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Shokhin, and Russian Federation Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko. EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere declared that the European Bank intends to fundamentally modify the ideology of cooperation with Russia and the CIS countries, going over to direct ties with regions, commercial structures, and enterprises. There will be presentations of 50 Russian investment projects within the framework of the International Banking Forum. An agreement on the use of the Proton carrier rocket to put European space satellites into orbit is expected to be concluded with the Russian premier's participation. Representatives of the "Mayak" Design Bureau and the European Bank intend to sign the relevant documents. At the initial stage the project is valued at U.S.$10 million. In the opinion of experts, this contract could signify the reorientation of European space structures toward the Russian market.

Precisely 24 investment programs submitted by St. Petersburg were submitted for the European bankers' verdict. They include a project for the construction of a ring road which will solve the problems of transit communication between north European and Baltic countries and the northwest region of Russia, the construction of a high-speed main railroad between Moscow and St. Petersburg, and the reconstruction of the historic city on the Neva.

Gaydar Warns Against Weakening Monetary Policy

LD1904210094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar has warned against offsetting inter-enterprise debt. Talking to journalists in Samara he said that any attempt to weaken the monetary policy will as a rule have result in the opposite of what was envisaged. Ukraine had often offset such debt and the result was one of the most critical financial situations in the CIS. In the Baltic states such steps had never been taken and there the debt problem was much less acute, said Gaydar.

He said that defaulting was an indicator of financial responsibility. "If there was a high level of responsibility, defaulting is high. One can refrain from paying and put one's money in a bank or commercial structure and receive a profit." He said this was impossible in countries with strict bankrupt legislation and a high level of real responsibility. Gaydar also considers the government to be to blame. "This concerns the defaulting of the government itself and its non-fulfillment of obligations— a line actively pursued by the Chernomyrdin cabinet since the beginning of 1993," said Gaydar.

He said that serious changes in the present tax system can only be based, in the first place, on real cut-backs in government expenditure and, in the second, on the gradual lowering of profit tax and the gradual raising of tax on natural resources, land and property.

On the decision to unify the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, Gaydar said that a series of principal conditions had been accepted in Belarus (in contrast to the initial draft) and that Belarus would win a considerable amount from the agreement, e.g. equal prices for energy and access to the stable Russian currency. Russia is widening its market. In addition, it will not have to pay any lease for military units stationed in Belarus. However, Gaydar said that one point did give him cause for concern: Private individuals will be able to exchange Belarusian rubles for Russian rubles at a rate of one to one for the first two hundred thousand in cash and for the first million in bank accounts. As there is about 60 million dollars in cash circulation in Belarus, this would result in the circulation increasing to 1.5 billion dollars. Thus, Gaydar said, Russia would be making Belarus a gift of two trillion rubles. This does not take into account bank savings. The main thing, according to Gaydar, is that the possibilities for financial speculation will increase massively at a cost of many trillions of rubles for the Russian economy.

Favors Defense Spending Cut

LD2004095294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, leader of the parliamentary group Russia's Choice, believes the country's budget expenditure on defense should be cut. In an interview for DELOVOY MIR, he noted that 37 trillion rubles have been earmarked in the draft budget for military spending; in other words a fifth of the budget. Yegor Gaydar believes it necessary for the Russian Army to be tailored to the new conditions and new possibilities that exist in the country.

Bank Chairman Asks EBRD To Boost Credits

LD2004082894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0551 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The chairman of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR), Viktor Gerashchenko, has called on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to boost credits to purely Russian enterprises rather than joint ventures with participation of Western companies. Speaking at the closing ceremony of an annual meeting of the EBRD board in St. Petersburg Tuesday, Gerashchenko pointed out that quite a number of reliable companies capable of maintaining civilized relations with the bank had appeared in Russia. He highly praised the EBRD's efforts in assisting Russia's small businesses and supposed that its dialog with Russian business would be even more productive, if carried out through the CBR.

Commenting on the EBRD's activities last year, Gerashchenko noted that the amount of credits actually used for Russian projects had increased by more than 10 times and reached $120 Mn. In his opinion, the EBRD board of directors might function as the coordinator of various states' efforts for the support of Russian reforms.

EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere pointed out that this body would use a more flexible approach to its relations with East and Central European countries and pay more attention to their small and medium-sized businesses.

Duty To Be Imposed on Petroleum Production

PM2004115594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "New Excise Rate Per Tonne of Oil Sold"]

[Text] As of 1 May this year the Russian Government is establishing an excise rate for extracting enterprises of, on average, 14,750 rubles per tonne of oil, including gas condensate. This amount will change monthly, depending on the change in the rate of the ruble against the U.S. dollar. There will be different rates for individual oil and gas extracting enterprises.

Food Commission Discusses Grain Purchase Outlook

PM1904155194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Petr Shcherbakov report: "We Will Make It To the Next Harvest....—Notes From the Food Commission Session"]

[Text] What is the situation regarding reserves of grain in the country? How much will bread cost this fall, or by the end of the year? What is the volume of grain purchases which can be realistically expected in 1994? These tricky questions were discussed last Thursday by members of the Russian Federation Government Food Commission under the chairmanship of Agriculture and Food Minister V. Khlystun.

In respect of current reserves of bread grain, these, according to "Roskhleboprodukt" Corporation President L. Cheshinskiy, are sufficient to last until the next harvest. There are particularly plentiful reserves of rye, which will meet the requirements of the Russian population right up until 1996.

But it is grain purchases from the 1994 harvest which are prompting alarm. And this alarm is wholly justified. After all, last fall, for a number of reasons, a sizable area earmarked for winter crops was left unsown. The wintering of cereal crops took place in difficult conditions. As a result, owing to frosts and rot over large areas, farmers were forced to undersow or even resow winter grain with spring grain. All this, of course, will affect the harvest.

In the light of this, forecasts by food commission members regarding appreciable price increases for bread were completely justified.

"It is clear even today," V. Khlystun said, "that, by fall, because of inflation and for other reasons, purchase prices for grain will rise to 200,000 rubles [R] a tonne."

It will be remembered that the average purchase price in 1993 was R57,000 per tonne. But then the situation was different to the one taking shape now. The custom of state grain procurements was still genetically strong. However, political infighting, in which bread prices constituted a bargaining chip, led to a situation where debts for products submitted were not paid to agricultural commodity producers for many months. As a result, virtually all farms—large farms and private smallholdings—ended up on the brink of economic collapse, irretrievably disenchanted with the word of the state as a guarantee of any kind of commitment.

The volume of grain purchases destined for the Federal Fund is currently defined at a level of roughly 11 million tonnes, or 1 million tonnes less than it was planned to purchase in 1993. Then, you may recall, the plan was exceeded. The drop in planned volumes for this year is attributed to the fact that the government has restricted the circle of users of the "state corn bins," suggesting to many that they themselves take care of grain and other food reserves. The market, after all, is the market.

Whether these 11 million tonnes will be poured into state silos is, so to speak, another matter.

These fears are not arbitrary. Unless purchase prices for fall 1994 are determined sufficiently reliably in the very near future, and unless appropriate contracts are signed, the peasant will not assume commitments to deliver grain on credit. To all appearances, the Russian Federation Government Food Commission understands this only too well, having given instructions to a number of ministries and departments to define the volume of budget funds necessary to cover expenditure on grain purchases as soon as possible, and with due account of inflation and other factors.

Program for Developing Small, Medium Towns

LD1904185294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Cherepanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 19 TASS—Russia is developing, in cooperation with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), a federal programme on the development of small and medium towns. The Investment Bank of Reconstruction and Development of Small Russian Cities will be instituted for this purpose, Yevgeniy Malkov, the president of Russian Small Towns Union, told journalists on Tuesday at the presentation of the EBRD investment programmes in Russia.

The bulk of the investment projects are to be realized in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod, but a considerable part of the Russian industries is situated in small towns. This is why Russia will come to a market economy only if it modernizes industry and transport in its small towns.

One of these programmes deals with reconstructing small ports on the Baltic, Black and Azov seas. Another one envisages reconstructing local airports and industrial facilities.

According to Uralvneshtorgbank official Sergey Obraz, "the Urals is a territory safe for investments because, no ethnic conflicts take place here, and local industry managed to preserve its high standards of research and development. Scientists and engineers working on defence enterprises (the Sverdlovsk region alone has five top-secret nuclear-technology towns) can produce new technologies, but cannot make money. This is why investment projects here should be launched before they give up their production capacities completely."

Military & Nuclear Issues

Defense Ministry: Strategic Forces Underfunded

LD2004092294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1747 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—The current level of financing the armed forces will leave Russia without nuclear weapons by the end of the century, Lieutenant General Yuriy Merkulov said at parliamentary hearings in the State Duma. The Russian Defense Ministry representative supported his conclusion by an analysis of the state of strategic nuclear forces. All the indicators are showing a negative tendency. Thus, according to him, the submarine missile fleet is being forcibly reduced, aviation regiments are not getting new bombers and the funds allocated are not enough to service the missile facilities of strategic missile forces.

Today's hearings at the State Duma Defense Committee "On the implementation of the USSR-U.S. treaty on reducing and limiting strategic offensive armaments and on concomitant problems" revealed the difficulties which Russia is encountering while implementing its obligations. It was noted, inter alia, that START-I has been ratified but has not come into force. Its implementation is linked to long-term operations aimed at eliminating weapons and to the volumes of funding.

According to committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov, today's hearings should be regarded as a preliminary stage of the START-II ratification process. In Yushenkov's view, it will soon be submitted to the State Duma for ratification. The U.S. side is interested in the results of the forthcoming examination. A group of U.S. Congressmen is expected in Moscow in May. The main purpose of their visit is to ascertain the partners' attitude to the implementation by Russia of the treaty obligations for further reducing strategic offensive weapons.

'Special Service' Chiefs Sign Agreements

LD2004102094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0924 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK), and Aleksandr Korzhakov, chief of the Russian Federation president's Security Service, exchanged views at a meeting today on cooperation between and coordinating the activity of the two special services to ensure the safety of the Russia president and state security as a whole.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the FSK that today's meeting was not caused by any extraordinary events. It was held within the framework of establishing collaboration between the counterintelligence service and other Russian special services in order to eradicate the duplication of work.

Sergey Stepashin and Aleksandr Korzhakov signed an agreement which lays down the legal and contractual basis for cooperation between the two special services in operational investigation work, and which envisages the regular exchange of information.

Earlier, a similar agreement was signed between the FSK and the Foreign Intelligence Service.

Pacific Fleet To Stop Utilities Disconnection

LD2004042894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0338 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 20 Apr— The Commander of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Georgiy Gurinov has issued an order to post armed guard at the fleet's water mains and power grids in the garrison in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and to stop any attempts of local authorities to disconnect military installations from these services. The press center of the Pacific Fleet reports that this decision has been prompted by a recent warning issued to commanders of military units stating that their water and power will be cut off due to the arrears in payments which have now reached 4.5 billion rubles.

At the sanction of the head of the town administration, an attempt was undertaken to disconnect water and power from the headquarters and other units of the Kamchatka flotilla. The military quickly retaliated by posting armed guards. As a result, the town authorities are in trouble. To add insult to injury, an attempt of duty managers to disconnect the supply was stopped by a preventive gunshot of the guard.

Yeltsin Edict on Spring Draft, Discharge

PM2004092894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict No. 784 of the Russian Federation president "On the Draft of Citizens of the Russian Federation for Military Service in April-May 1994 and the Discharge of Soldiers, Seamen, Noncommissioned Officers, Petty Officers, and Military Construction Personnel Who Have Served the Designated Period of Military Service", dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 15 April 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation laws "On Defense" and "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," I decree that:

1. A total of 216,000 citizens of the Russian Federation born between 1967 and 1976, including those who are studying in day departments of establishments of primary and secondary professional education and are not entitled to a deferment, are to be drafted in April-June 1994 for military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces and in other forces and military formations.

2. Soldiers, seamen, noncommissioned officers, petty officers, and military construction personnel who have served the designated period of military service are to be discharged in April-June 1994.

3. The Russian Federation Government and organs of executive power in the republics, krays, oblasts, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs are to ensure that measures are taken to draft citizens for military service.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense together with other ministries and departments where there is provision for military service are to submit for approval their proposals for the placement of citizens drafted for military service in April-June 1994.

5. Persons drafted for military service are to be transported as a rule in teams in the passenger cars of trains or in airplanes (ships) in accordance with a special schedule.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Railways and the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport are to set aside the necessary quantity of rolling stock and airplanes (ships) or places in passenger cars and planes (ships) in accordance with requests from the relevant command to transport the said persons at given times, with provision for security measures; payment for the transport is to be charged at the present mutually agreed tariffs.

6. This Edict comes into force from the moment of its signing.
[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin
[Dated]Moscow, The Kremlin, 15 April 1994
No. 784

Grachev Order on Draft

PM2004094394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Order No. 116 of the Russian Federation Minister of Defense "On the Drafting of Citizens of the Russian Federation for Military Service in April-June 1994, and the Transfer to the Reserve of Soldiers, Seamen, Noncommissioned Officers, Petty Officers, and Military Construction Personnel who Have Served the Designated Period of Military Service", dated Moscow, 15 April 1994 and signed by Russian Federation Minister of Defense, Army General Pavel Grachev]

[Text] In execution of the Russian Federation president's Edict No. 784 of 15 April 1994, I order that:

1. Soldiers, seamen, noncommissioned officers, petty officers, and military construction personnel who have served the designated period of military service be transferred to the reserve from the ranks of the Russian Federation Armed Forces in April-June 1994.

2. Commanders of forces in military districts and military commissars ensure jointly with local administration heads the organization and implementation in April-June 1994 of the draft for military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other forces and military units of citizens of the Russian Federation born between 1967 and 1976 who do not have the right to a deferment of and exemption from being drafted for military service.

3. The order be posted in all companies, batteries, squadrons, and on ships.
[Signed] Russian Federation Minister of Defense
Army General P. Grachev

Shortage of Draftees Expected

LD2004082294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0551 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] There will be a big shortage of draftees in the Russian army this spring. Only about 216,000 young men will be drafted, although the demand of the armed forces is 700,000. The draft and allocation to units will be completed by July 1, Commander of the Main Organizational and Mobilization Board of the Russian Armed Forces' General Headquarters General Vitaliy Bologov told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

He said that the shortage in the army is caused by the fact that many young men have the right to postpone their service, as well as by the worsening of draftees' health condition. The General noted that in the spring the armed forces can draft only 27 percent of available "mobilization resources." He also said that in other countries the figure is 50 to 75 percent.

Bologov noted that the Defense Ministry will suggest that parliament introduce amendments in the near future to the laws on military service, on defense and some others in order to reduce the number of privileges and delays for draftees.

Commenting on the Russian president's decree on draft of citizens born in 1967-1976, Bologov noted that according to the Constitution of the country, a young man not older than 27 can be drafted to the army.

Bologov said that the autumn draft of 1993 was fulfilled to 90.6 percent. He said that of more than 500,00 citizens 480,000 were sent to serve in the army. The General added that 320,000 draftees graduated from secondary professional-technical schools.

Chernomyrdin Notes 'Complex Conditions' for Navy

PM1904144694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[PRAVDA and ITAR-TASS column report under the rubric "In Brief": "Enemies All Around"]

[Text] "The task of building a new Russian Navy has to be resolved in extremely complex conditions. All the negative processes taking place in the Russian economy are also having an effect on service. We have lost a number of military bases in the Baltic, Black, and Caspian Seas, and attempts to play the naval card are continuing in various political circles," Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Federation Government prime minister, stated on Sunday, taking part in the ceremony of the commissioning in the Russian Navy of the first category destroyer Besstrashnyy.

Grachev Praises Air Force

LD1904133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev praised the situation in the Russian Air Force at a meeting of the Air Force leadership on Monday. This appraisal is corroborated by some indicative figures revealed to ITAR-TASS by officials at the Russian Air Force press centre on Tuesday.

Warplanes of the Russian Air Force were air-borne more than 13,000 times over the past week alone. The total flying time amounted to 6,932 hours. Some 4,000 troops and their family members as well as 1,000 tonnes of cargoes were flown to garrisons and army groups between April 11 and 17.

Air Force planes helped to withdraw troops of the West Army Group from Germany, to bring replacement and foodstuffs to the 201st Motorised Division (Tajikistan) and to replace personnel and materiel of the 14th Russian Army (Moldova). The Air Force press centre also reported that 37 international flights were made at the request of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

No Alert Planned for Interior Troops 1 May

LD1904165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] On May 1, the Russian interior troops will be beefed up, but they will not be put in a state of alert, Interior Troops Commander Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov announced during a briefing in Moscow. He said that the security of some of the military facilities would be enhanced to exclude the seizure of weapons and military equipment. "But there are no plans to draw forces to Moscow from other regions," he said.

To quote Kulikov, on May 1, interior troops will be in reserve and help the police if necessary. Kulikov referred to the law which says that the interior troops shall not be used for dispersing unsanctioned rallies or demonstrations, but shall be involved in dealing with mass disturbances. He also announced that in a number of regions, above all in the North Caucasus, the interior troops had to act in the backdrop of a complicated criminal situation. In 1993, interior troops came under fire 130 times in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. As a result, seven servicemen were killed and 133 were wounded. This year, interior troops were attacked more than 20 times.

He proposed that the Interior Minister be allowed to change the structure and dislocation of the interior troops depending on the criminal situation. He also noted that almost 17,000 interior troop servicemen had no housing. "Spending on the interior troops meets only 60 percent of our needs," said Kulikov.

Internal Troops Chief on Plans

MK2004073094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report under the "In Brief" rubric: "They Are Getting Ready for May Day"]

[Text] The Russian Federation internal troops "will be on duty on a reinforced basis; however, there will be no order to put them in full combat readiness" during the May Day celebrations, stated Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov, internal troops commander, in a news briefing in Moscow yesterday. He pointed out that being on reinforced duty means reinforced security at a number of troop facilities to prevent seizures of weapons and hardware. "No concentration of forces from the other regions in Moscow is contemplated," the commander underlined. In his words, internal troops would be enlisted during the May Day celebrations to help the militia "as a reserve at the point of permanent deployment, as well as in separate regions in Moscow."

'Vympel' Force To Combat 'Nuclear Terrorism'

LD1904170294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The currently reorganized special force Vympel will combat nuclear terrorism, Commander of the Russian Interior Troops, Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov announced on Tuesday. He said that Vympel would be directly controlled by the interior minister.

He also pointed out that the tactics of the interior troops guarding nuclear power plants and nuclear defense facilities have become outdated in as they were mostly oriented against individual terrorists, not organized criminals. The interior troops also lack armored equipment and special security devices, said Kulikov. There are plans to equip servicemen with gas weapons, he stated. He also complained that the interior troops were 49 percent understaffed.

Mission To Prevent Leakage From Sunken Submarine

LD2004122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—"We should receive fuller information on the situation and conduct measures aimed at preventing or lessening a radioactive leakage from the Komsomolets submarine, said here on Wednesday Sergey Khetagurov, deputy minister for civil defence and emergencies, defining the main task of a Russian expedition to the area of the sunken submarine to be held next June. He spoke at a working meeting of several ministries and departments which will participate in the expedition.

The mission plans to carry out comprehensive monitoring of the radiation, ecological and biological situation in the area of the submarine's wreckage with the use of advanced equipment and to realise several technological operations aimed at minimising a possible leakage of products of plutonium corrosion into the environment.

It is also planned to implement a unique operation at a depth of 1,700 meters to seal, with special hatches, six ports in the submarine's bow where there are six missiles, two of which are with nuclear warheads.

This will decrease the speed of water currents and minimise the leakage of products of plutonium corrosion. The operation on installing hatches will be simulated on the sub's specially built full-scale mockup. Meeting participants noted that there is no experience of conducting similar operations at such depths.

Khetagurov said in conclusion that the expedition is an expensive undertaking. Nevertheless, it is necessary for Russia and the entire international community. Therefore, it should be carried out at a high technological and organisational level.

Border Troops Official on Radioactive Dumping

LD1904090194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoly Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS—The foreign press is accusing the Russian Pacific Fleet of discharging radioactive waste into the sea. It is characteristic that these accusations coincided with the beginning of the large-scale Russian operation "Fishing Season". The purpose of the operation is to put a stop to the depletion of fish stock in the Far East, particularly off the south Kurils, General Andrey Nikolayev, supreme commander of the Russian frontier troops, member of the Security Council, told ITAR-TASS.

He said that in addition to frontier guards and military aircraft, ships of the Pacific Fleet participate in the operation.

The effort to strenthen protection of national interest along Russia's eastern boundaries proved effective, as shown by communiques of the Supreme Command of the Russian frontier troops. A stop was put to ostentatious calls of groups of Japanese fishing vessels into Russian territorial waters and to large-scale poaching. Highly-manoeuvrable groups of ships promptly react to the situation and prevent violations of state border.

Far from everybody likes the normalisation of the situation in the Far East where Russia's neighbours have been permitting themselves lapses from the observance of the international norms and rules. Certain forces in Japan and in other countries of the region do not want the "thawing of glaciers" remaining from the past war. To thaw them by business cooperation and development of mutually- advantageous economic relations means to increase the might of the industrialised Japan and of the fabulously rich Russia. Experts believe that this does not suit rivals and that new portions of sensations are fed to the media.

The world public is aware that Russia does not discharge technological waste into the sea the way this is done by many other countries, Japan included. But going by publications, also in TOKYO SHIMBUN, this is not the matter of radioactive waste but that of its being the product of the operation of atomic submarines of the Russian Pacific Fleet. This fleet of the Russian Navy is seen as a menace in the Pacific and in the world ocean. Some circles are ready to go any lengths to present an unfavorable picture of the Pacific Fleet. So they speculate on economic and technological difficulties of the utilisation of waste of atomic submarines.

Border Troop Commander: Status of Troops Rising

LD1904131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky April 19 TASS—"The status of border troops is rising, and I believe that the very concept of this structure is changing," Andrey Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of Russian border troops, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on

Tuesday. He said this, replying to the question of whether his appointment a member of the Russian Security Council means a higher status of border troops within the system of ensuring the state's security.

"While the border was earlier the only boundary designed to fight single infiltrators," Nikolayev continued, "now we face an all-out 'offensive' of smugglers, drug and arms dealers as well as mobs. We need new border troops, and we are now working on this issue."

Nikolayev who was recently appointed a member of the Security Council by the Russian president's decree, is now making an inspection tour of the Russian Far East.

"The Russian Far Eastern bounderies have some features distinguishing them from other parts of the state border," Nikolayev noted. Their main part runs across sea expanses, forcing us to keep here powerful coast guard forces. "The main problem here is that it is an area of constant violations of fishing regulations. "We should find a way to settle this problem not by force but legally," Nikolayev stressed. "This area is of interest not only to Russia but to other states as well which should understand that they upset the ecological and biological balance in this part of the world ocean by destroying rich marine resources."

Military Denies Passing Sentence on Defector

LD1904202694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Neither the military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court, nor court martials or other courts of the Russian Federation ever considered the criminal case of former Soviet citizen Vladimir Rezun (Viktor Suvorov) and sentenced him to death for high treason in absentia, the military collegium's press office said Tuesday.

Former officer of the Main Intelligence Department of the General Staff (Russian abbreviation GRU), Vladimir Rezun, defected from Geneva to Great Britain in 1978 after four years of work in Geneva as a fixed-post espionage officer. At present, 47-years-old Rezun lives in a military base in Great Britain under protection and teaches in a military educational establishment.

As he repeatedly said, Rezun was sentenced to death in the Soviet Union after his defection.

Rezun has written seven books. The Ice-Breaker which he signed as Viktor Suvorov is the most popular. In the book, Rezun based on open Soviet publications to prove that "the Soviet Union was the main culprit and the main instigator of the World War II" and that "the Communists unleashed the war in Europe by the hands of Hitler in the 30s and were preparing a swift strike against Hitler himself to seize the Europe he had destroyed."

The Ice-Breaker was published in many countries. In 1992 more than 300,000 copies were printed in Russia. Rezun gave a news conference in Moscow on April 13 when he answered journalists' questions over the telephone from Britain.

Federal Assembly

Lukin: Debate on Bosnia 'Improbable'

LD1904205794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Chairman of the State Duma Committee for international affairs Vladimir Lukin considers "improbable" that the lower chamber of parliament will hold a closed meeting to discuss the situation in former Yugoslavia Wednesday, April 20. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin earlier reported to Interfax about the possibility of holding such a meeting after meeting with speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin.

According to Lukin, the Council of the State Duma on Tuesday decided to put on the agenda of the plenary meeting on Wednesday only the issue of sending a parliamentary delegation to the republics of former Yugoslavia. He pointed out that the delegation will include representatives of all factions and intends to get acquainted with the positions of all sides in the conflict.

Russia's Choice Urges Antipoverty Laws

PM2004082594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Poverty Is a Threat to Civil Peace"]

[Text] This warning [reference to headline] has been issued in the State Duma by representatives of the "Russia's Choice" and "Yabloko" democratic factions who are members of the Committee on Labor and Social Support. In their opinion, poverty in our country is escalating from a social problem into a political one: The lumpenization of society and the growth in irritation, dissatisfaction, and wounded dignity in a considerable section of the population which only recently was considered perfectly successful in terms of its standard of living do not lead to democracy but create preconditions for a new dictatorship.

Duma Deputy Ella Pamfilova, former minister of social protection of the population, believes that the way out can be found by creating a long-term federal program to combat poverty. It must be based on the package of draft laws which specialists have already worked out: Deputies intend to submit it soon for examination by the State Duma. The first thing in this package must be a law on the minimum living wage, which should include criteria for assessing the standard of living and the minimum per capita provision, below which the state cannot allow itself to fall.

Deputy Petr Shchelishch ("Yabloko") is convinced that poverty is not only a problem of the poor but a problem of the moral health of society. Since there are different paths to poverty (nowadays they depend not only on the person himself), the means of assisting the individual on the part of the state and society must also be different: from direct poverty benefits for those who cannot resolve this problem on their own to the creation of a system to support those who are in a position to create the basis of their prosperity by their own efforts (young families, people who have lost their job, etc.). For this it is necessary to reorient the state's system of priorities: Expenditure on "bread and shelter" must be the top priority. Without this it is impossible to transform society efficiently, since the growth of the "nouveau pauvre" section narrows the base of economic and political reforms.

Problems of poverty—above all, the question of the minimum living wage—will today be the subject of parliamentary hearings in the State Duma organized on the initiative of the Committee on Labor and Social Support and of parliament's democratic factions. In their initiative the deputies of a democratic orientation proceed from the premise that further ignoring of social problems discredits not only the authorities implementing the reform in the country but also the reforms themselves.

Duma Holds Hearings on Urals Republic

MK2004092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov report under the "Territories" rubric: "Urals Republic Idea Was Interesting. Center Fails To Appreciate Eduard Rossel's Good Intentions"]

[Text] The State Duma hearings on the Urals Republic that never materialized reminds one of a discussion about the rise and fall of an ancient state. Deputy Vladimir Lysenko outlined five conceptual models of Russia's administrative system. The first one calls for making all the current Federation components guberniyas (that is, for lowering the republics' status). The second, on the contrary, calls for the raising of the status of krays and oblasts to that of the republics. The third one calls for creating lands, letting the republics be. The fourth one is about creating lands all over Russia. And finally, the fifth one calls for a development of regional economic associations.

Eduard Rossel, current member of the Federation Council and recent head of the administration of Sverdlovsk Oblast and chairman of its soviet, and who was discharged from his position by the president precisely for the idea of a Urals Republic, complained about overcentralization of the economy; he was trying to prove that the people of Yekaterinburg had no separatist goals in mind and were simply trying to shift the burden of reforms into the regions. At first the republic was seen as an association of six territories. Mr. Rossel had taken this idea for equal rights for Federation components to 18 ministries in Moscow and received 18 rejections. After that the oblast held a referendum where the idea of a republic obtained 84 percent of the votes. On 27 October, a session of the oblast soviet passed the constitution of a Urals Republic (so far to be comprised of Sverdlovsk Oblast). The same day regulations for the elections of a legislative assembly were confirmed, with the president dissolving the Sverdlovsk soviet two weeks after. The heads of the contiguous territories, naturally, feared the same fate as Mr. Rossel's, and the Urals republic did not materialize after all.

Speaking next, Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, agreed that the architects of a Urals Republic had not been separatist-minded, and put the spotlight on an important mistake made at the time of organizing the new administrative entity, a mistake that largely contributed to the initiative's failure. Public opinion, hence of those in power at various levels, took the Urals Republic idea precisely as separatist. This attests not only to an inadequately analytical perception of the described idea at the federative level, but also to the fact that those who elaborated the social project may have supposed that no public opinion was going to be formed, or they ignored it, or they hoped for the common sense of average Russians and those in executive positions. Which is, as usual, a pity.

Budget Process Seen as 'Mockery'

PM1904153494 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Vladimir Isakov "Parliamentary Diary": "Budget Drama—Act Two"]

[Excerpt] **"Givi Is Seriously Ill"**

I called last year's report on the examination of the budget message the "Budget Drama." Has anything changed since then? The answer is in the headline of this piece.

As a participant in the adoption of the state budget for a fourth time through the voters' will I cannot fail to see how time after time its content is emasculated and the budget process is degraded and turned into a mockery.

It makes sense to begin the discussion of the 1994 budget with certain results. The official account of the previous year has not been submitted by the government and no wonder—there is little comfort in it. But there are some unofficial statistics, which are:
Fall in industrial production:
Prediction in the president's message: 7 percent;
Actual figure for the year: 16.2 percent.
Rise in Prices:
Prediction in the president's message: Threefold;
Actual figure for the year: Tenfold.
Federal Budget Deficit (as a percentage of GDP):
Prediction in the president's message: 5 percent;
Actual figure for the year: 10.6 percent.

According to the main socioeconomic indicators, this is a two- to three-fold discrepancy! Can that really be true? Yes, it can.

The new program presented by the government looks no more realistic either. The prediction for the fall in production in 1994 is around 8 percent. But in the first quarter alone it was 25 percent and over the year, according to the specialists' estimates, it could be at a level of 30 percent. The budget has been calculated on the basis of an inflation rate of 490-510 percent (whereas in fact it was 730 percent in the first quarter).

There is a further increase in taxes built into the budget: a 6 percent increase in profit tax, 3 percent in value-added tax, 2 percent in property tax, and so forth. The government intends to use the taxation system to gather into the budget a sum equal to 16.6 percent of GDP. But last year it managed to collect only 10.6 perecent of GDP and in the first quarter of this year the figure was even less—8 percent. So there you have it, the first result of the move toward the "market": Over 90 percent of created public wealth is bypassing the budget and being distributed outside state control. Have you felt the difference?

It is obvious to the naked eye that the economic slump is assuming the character of chronic stagnation: State investments in the development of the economy are a token sum in terms of the budget—around 2 percent of GDP—and have fallen even when compared with last year's clearly understated level. The agrarian sector, science, education, and culture are being underfunded. While budget spending is rising by an average of fivefold, spending on social programs is rising by 4.1 times.... On the other hand, spending on the state apparatus is rising eightfold!

Gaping holes are appearing in the revenue section of the budget, too. The planned transition from a voucher-based privatization to cash is being accompanied by...a sharp reduction in that item of revenue. In that case, where will the funds go? Into the pockets of brazen privatizers? It will cost hundreds of billions of rubles to maintain the tax benefits granted by the president and the government to individual, selected "favorites," in crude violation of the existing legislation.

The conclusion: This discredited economic course is continuing in an even clearer and more overt form. Let us ask ourselves: Can such a budget be the basis of social accord?

The budget is not just a mirror of the economy but a continuation of policy. Despite all the talk about the significance and importance of the budget, neither the president nor the chairman of the government turned up for the discussion of it. Acting Foreign Minister Dubinin "carried the can" for them all.

The document which bears the solemn title "the budget" can only be called a budget if you really stretch a point: It contains no account of the execution of the budget for 1992 or preliminary results of the execution of the budget in 1993, it does not offer indicators forecasting the development of the economy in 1994, it has no list of state targeted programs, there is no explanation of the majority of budget items.... Essentially it is not a budget at all but a set of departmental items of expenditure linked by a single demand that unites them all: "Give us the money and clear off!"

One can understand that there is no money in the state today, and that the threadbare Russian budget cannot satisfy everyone's needs. What is harder to understand is why the government cannot present even this budget on time? Why it is presented in an incomplete form without accounting documents and each time using a new methodology which prevents a comparison with the previous year's results?

However, there is a most direct link between the first and second points: The present political leadership, which has led the country into the quagmire of the economic crisis, cannot stand being monitored and has no intention of answering to anyone, least of all to the deputies. You will not give us the money? We will take it without asking. And if you demand an account—we will mislead you. And we will forbid you in the future from interfering in the executive's affairs.

Well, what about the Duma? Two opposing standpoints clashed at the Duma session during the discussion of the budget: "Reject the budget and send it back to the government for revision," and "adopt the budget on first reading." I consider the former option correct. But in present conditions, when the Duma has been cut off from the mass media, it will find it difficult even to convey its view to the people, let alone explain it. And, conversely, it is very easy to become a target for those who are seeking scapegoats for their own mistakes (remember how last year the Supreme Soviet was castigated for the budget). That is why they could have accepted the moderate compromise proposed by the Duma's Budget and Finance Committee: "To consider the budget presented."

But such a compromise did not suit the government—it needed a "more soothing" formula. So the Duma committees headed by the chairman of the chamber looked for one. Eventually they found one: The budget is totally unsuitable and needs a fundamental revision but "is adopted as a basis." There was laughter and irritation: "Givi is sick, come and bury him," was how one Duma wag commented on the decision adopted.

However, no verbal trickery can hide the unpleasant fact that Russia does not have a budget and is not going to get one in the near future. The government cannot produce one, the Duma is in no position to do so.... [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Budget Debate

PM2004080994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Commentary under "Latest News" rubric: "One Budget for a Dozen Problems]

[Text] At first sight, the decree on the federal budget for 1994 adopted by the State Duma is a strange one. The draft budget proposed by the government has been adopted as a working base. But at the same time the government is invited to revise all the main budgetary indicators to allow for new economic priorities, and to present the draft again for a first reading.

We will not, however, suspect the poor Duma deputies of economic sabotage. On the contrary, in my view, they displayed exceptional resourcefulness in seeking a constructive solution to a complex problem. The draft budget was composed in an extremely hardline monetarist spirit, as if at the behest of Gaydar and Fedorov. And not because Premier V. Chernomyrdin has suddenly rallied to the colors of Milton Friedman. At heart he is still a sector specialist, but the current political situation compells him to hoist the monetarist flag higher than Gaydar and Fedorov themselves. There is no real money in the state coffers, and all the problems of budget funding can be resolved only by the nomenklatura method of "removing difficulties" through backstage bureaucratic horse-trading. That is to say, today we bailed out this lot, tomorrow we will bail out another lot, and a third lot the day after. To bail out everyone at once—that is, to adopt a budget which would satisfy the interests of all lobbyists—is not possible.

A way out of the impasse was found, as was to have been expected, during lobby negotiations, during which Chernomyrdin won over the agrarians by promising them money "later." The aforementioned Duma decree, which was compounded on the principle of "bread now and jam tomorrow" was also a reflection of this "consensus." V. Zhirinovskiy took part for the first time in lobby horse trading on an internal economic theme; in exchange for his support for the compromise decision, he—evidently maliciously—demanded the inclusion in the protocol of the decree a demand for the resignation of Ministers Yerin, Kozyrev, and Chubays. The demand was indeed included.

This testifies not only to deputies' political "flexibility," but also to their social alertness [sotsialnaya adekvatnost], their understanding of the "scientific" fact that the real conflict of interests lies not in the sphere of voucher privatization, foreign policy, or the battle with crime. All this is secondary. The crucial topic in Russian life is competition between the major sector groups over the sharing out of national income.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Opposition Discusses Options for Talks

LD1904124694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Leaders of political movements opposed to President Johar Dudayev in Chechnya discussed how they might become involved in dialogue with Russia in Moscow on Monday [18 April].

Interfax was informed by the opposition head quarters that the movements concerned discussed how they might form one body to represent both political parties and public and national movements in Chechnya opposed to Dudayev's policies. The stabilization of the situation inside the republic was also discussed.

One option for dialogue with Russia was that proposed by Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Sergey Shakhray. That involved a presidential instruction stating, among other things, that the Russian government had been charged with "holding consultations with representatives of state power and of all political movements in the Chechen Republic" to find a way out of the social and political tension which had arisen.

Asked by Interfax why the meeting had taken place in Moscow, one opposition representative replied: "Not all opposition leaders are able to travel to Chechnya because they are being literally hunted down there."

Groznyy Not Hopeful on Early Russian-Chechen Talks

LD1904202894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] A top-ranking official of the Chechen presidential staff has said he doubted that a republican delegation would soon arrive in Moscow for bilateral consultations. In an interview with Interfax, he recalled that the Chechen government had taken a resolution under which all contacts with Russia were to be maintained solely through the Chechen Foreign Ministry. This decision was made last week in order to regulate Groznyy's relations with Moscow.

The chief of the staff of the Russian president, Sergey Filatov, told Interfax that consultations with Groznyy were supposed to involve both the republican authorities as well as political parties and movements of the Chechen republic. However, after a recent meeting of Russian and Chechen representatives the Chechen side said further talks would be inexpedient, for there were "no political forces in control of the political situation" in Russia. In addition, the Chechen leadership had been making statements that the opposition's participation in the talks in any form would be unrealistic.

In the meantime, Interfax learned from reliable sources that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev consulted experts Monday on the possible imposition of a moratorium on talks with Russia. Interfax was told that the experts insisted on the moratorium in view of Russia's unconstructive position.

The same sources said Dudayev had not yet made his choice.

Commander Views Situation in N. Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD1904203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1526 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—The fact that the leaders of North Ossetia and Ingushetia have sat down at the conference table is no small contribution of the Russian interior troops who are carrying out peacekeeping functions in the region, their commander, Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov believes. He was meeting Russian and foreign journalists at a briefing at the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry today.

Kulikov noted that the presence of the interior troops in the emergency situation zone has not only stabilized but also, to a considerable extent, improved the crime situation. The number of people who have been killed in North Ossetia and Ingushetia is substantially fewer than in neighboring republics and oblasts with the same population, and the crime level is an average of 20 percent less.

Describing the activities of the troops in the hot spot, General Kulikov cited the following figures: Last year troop details confiscated over 600 fire arms, about 30,000 pieces of ammunition, hundreds of grenades and explosives, 16 artillery systems and grenade-throwers, and nine armored vehicles. This year seven special operations to disarm illegal formations have been carried out. The troops' catch includes 62 firearms, over 240 grenades, mines, and explosive devices, and over 20 kg of explosive substances.

In the time the troops have been in the emergency situation zone over 100 special operations have been carried out in which not a single local inhabitant has been killed, Kulikov stressed.

Unfortunately, he went on, the servicemen are constantly risking their lives in fulfilling combat and service tasks in the region. Last year, the temporary quarters of units and sub-units and also troop details were subjected to shelling and armed attacks on 126 occasions, as a result of which seven people were killed and 133 wounded. This year there have already been over 20 attacks and shellings. There have been no losses among the men of the interior troops.

South Ossetians Protest Border Post With North

LD1904170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Some of the South Ossetian citizens have taken the plans to equip a border post on the Russian-Georgian border as an attempt to divide the peoples of North and South Ossetia. According to Interfax sources, about 300 citizens of South Ossetia (Georgia) have arrived in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia (Russia) to organize a meeting in front of the parliament building.

The republic leaders persuaded the demonstrators to move to the Art Center and meet with North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov. The president said that the most important thing now was "to work in order to turn Ossetia into an economically mighty country."

He also said that the North Ossetian leaders would make efforts to ensure that the Russian-Georgian border between South and North Ossetia be transparent and never divide the peoples.

Yeltsin Appoints Representative to Chuvashia

PM2004081194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed "Official" report]

[Text] By an edict of the Russian Federation president, Mikhail Sergeyevich Timofeyev has been appointed permanent representative of the Russian Federation president in the Republic of Chuvashia.

Karachayevo-Cherkessian Parliament Restructured

LD2004103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Cherkessk April 20 TASS—The Supreme Soviet of the Karachayevo-Cherkessian Republic has been transformed into the People's Assembly. All the functions and powers of the representative authority will be transferred to it. This decision was taken by the session of the Republic's Supreme Soviet held in Cherkessk on Tuesday. Viktor Savelyev, president of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, was endorsed as speaker of the National Assembly.

The Presidium of the Republican Supreme Soviet has been dissolved. The Nationalities Council of the People's Assembly has been formed. It includes five deputies from each of the native peoples inhabitting Karachayevo-Cherkessia—Abaz, Karachay, Nogay, Russians, Cherkessians, and two deputies representing other peoples living in Karachayevo-Cherkessia.

The speaker of the People's Assembly will be chairman of the Nationalities Council. The draft constitution of Karachayevo- Cherkessia is to be worked out by the

Council by July 1. After being considered by the National Assembly it will be put to a nationwide referendum.

Yeltsin Orders Probe of Mordovia Laws, Enactments

LD1904174394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] ITAR-TASS has circulated President Yeltsin's directive on an investigation of whether laws and other legal enactments adopted in the Republic of Mordovia conform with the Russian Constitution. To this end, the document envisages the establishment of a special commission made up of representatives of the Russian Justice Ministry, the president's State Legal Administration, and the president's Administration for Work with Territories. Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, has been given a week to endorse the composition of this commission.

Tatar Parliament Views Budget, Economic Situation

MK1904122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Lukashov report from Kazan under the "Republics" rubric: "Tatarstan Heading for a Crisis of Authority. Government Lacks Economic Program"]

[Text] The 19th session of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet, which began in Kazan and whose main agenda item is the adoption of the republic's budget for this year, bodes no good for the local government.

A crisis of nonpayments, which may be even graver than in other regions, the pressure of the tax burden, and a nearly complete paralysis of oil production—the main source of budget revenues—have called into question not only the viability of much-publicized social programs and the possibility of old-style, large-scale assistance to agriculture, but also the prudence of the Tatarstan government's economic policy as a whole. The opposition, including both the nationalists and the federalists, is criticizing the republic's leadership for lacking any reform program whatsoever.

Moreover, the highest echelons of the republic's power, which have until recently been considered monolithic, suffered a split the other day. First, the policy pursued by the republic's leaders was challenged by Rafael Khakimov, President Shaymiyev's closest adviser. In an article entitled "A Year of Missed Opportunities" he accused the top authorities of "narcissism," pointing out that "everything is remarkably nice in our young republic. Leaders do not blunder. They sign treaties and agreements that the people fully endorse," whereas in Austria, "Chancellor Franz Vranitzky asked me how far Tatarstan is from Nizhniy Novgorod." In Mr. Khakimov's view, the first reformist steps by the republic's government—the regulation of prices instead of "shock therapy," thought-out agricultural policy, and social safety nets for specific sectors of the population—were proclaimed reform proper, which actually marked an end to it. "At the same time," Mr. Khakimov notes, "the Tatarstan government has not explained the essence of the republic's economic development model to the population." What he sees as the main trouble is that "sovereignty has not yet become...a way of life and the government has been hamstrung by 'oblast' thinking."

Mintimer Shaymiyev was swift to counter the charges, and presently the institution of presidential advisers in Tatarstan has been abolished altogether.

The tide of criticism of the republic's economic situation has not subsided, however. Tatarstan Deputy Prime Minister Ravil Muratov said in an interview for INTERFAX: "We are wasting time and missing the chance to complete reform at the minimum costs... We are beginning simply to lag behind certain regions. The government is undertaking costly social programs.. but it does not care very much about finding actual sources of financing them, primarily about the budget. Who will pay taxes? Enterprises indebted to each other, entrepreneurs crushed by a tax burden? Collective and state-owned farms that rely on subsidies, most of them money-losing? We have long watched Russian reform so as to avoid its mistakes. But by doing so we have made those of our own, having failed to work out our concept of economic development..."

Those responsible for the "idle time" have not been named yet, but it is clear that the government officials' criticism is directed at Svoboda Square, where the Cabinet of Ministers has its seat, not at the Kazan Kremlin, residence of the Tatarstan president. Given that rumors about Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov's resignation have been circulating for a long time now, one may surmise that the question will be discussed at the parliamentary session that began yesterday.

So far, questions concerning the treaty and follow-up agreements with the Russian Federation, which were signed in February, and the proposal by Deputy Bayramova, leader of the nationalist "Ittifak" party, on the discussion of human rights violations in the republic, have not been included in the session's agenda.

Although there have been no proposals to discuss the government's report on its last year's performance, the deputies will apparently have plenty of opportunities to say aloud everything they think on the subject when discussing the report on the implementation of Tatarstan's 1993 budget.

In addition, the session must consider the president's budget message for this year. Under the message, the republic's budget will amount to 9,124,576 million rubles. At the same time it is planned to transfer to the federal budget a total of 847.266 billion.

Perm Oblast Coal Strike Averted at Last Minute

PM1904143794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Lebedinskiy report: "It Is Harder To Receive Than to Work"]

[Text] Perm Oblast—An open-ended strike by the miners of Kizelovskiy Coalfield in Perm Oblast was to have started yesterday. The reason was purely economic—the nonpayment of wages since the beginning of the year. But if their labor is not paid for within a week, the miners warned, demands will be made that the government should resign and presidential elections be held ahead of schedule.

The countdown was about to begin, but news spread of 2.7 billion rubles arriving on time; this should be enough to settle accounts with the miners. But only for January. It was decided to postpone the strike. Evidently, until this money runs out.

Swiss Company To Prospect for Tomsk Oil, Gas

PM1904155394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Chernykh report: "Will Swiss Brood Hen Help Out Siberian Oil Broilers?"]

[Text] Tomsk—The first international tender for exploration, prospecting, and development rights to the oil and gas deposits in Tomsk Oblast is over.

It lasted 18 months, and two contenders came forward just a day before the offer to tender expired. This despite the fact that a presentation about the tender had been given in the United States. There was essentially no choice. The winner was a consortium of foreign companies, represented by the Swiss firm of "IMEG Management SA." The contenders had proposed conducting a full range of work with hydrocarbons over a territory of 2,870 square kilometers.

Just what will the Russian side get in return? If a certain level of extraction is achieved, the oblast's social support fund will receive $6 million. The minimum expenditure on the work over the course of five years is being put at 46 million [currency unspecified].

There is another side to things as well. Also taking part in the project will be the "Tomskneft" Joint-Stock Company and the "Tomskneftegazgeologiya" State Geological Enterprise, both of which have been in a difficult economic position. This will allow them to step up their search for hydrocarbons and to create new jobs.

The comprehensive prospecting for oil and gas on a contractual basis will make it possible to effectively implement the oblast's gas program. The Russian side will receive several hundred million dollars in proceeds from the project as a whole. And all this through foreign investment, without any spending by us. The license agreement should be signed by 1 July this year.

It is also necessary to elaborate the economic basis of the contract in more detail. Then it may be possible to start counting our oil "chickens." The results of the first offer to tender have also shown that foreigners are in no great hurry to invest in the shaky Russian economy. The hopes that the tendering commission would be inundated with envelopes bearing the logos of the big guns of the international oil business were not at all borne out.

Two Major Novosibirsk Banks Fail

PM1904151494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Chernykh report: "Novosibirsk Bank Failures"]

[Text] Novosibirsk—Two major Novosibirsk banks have announced that they are ending operations and proposing that clients close their accounts.

The first bank to fail—the "Siberian Development Bank"—has been on its last legs for more than a year. This led to a change of management and the attraction of considerable amounts of funds to rescue the situation. It did not help. Experts believe that the collapse was inevitable. The Novosibirsk management of "Mosbiznesbank" lent a hand to their bankrupt colleagues. But, naturally, not in the form of money. They offered staff from the failed bank jobs at their new branch.

The second victim of competition and market conditions has been the "Novosibirsk Innovation Commercial Bank."

International Affairs

Yeltsin To Visit Kiev, Sign Friendship Agreement

WS2004084194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A Ukrainian-Russian intergovernmental agreement on friendship and cooperation is planned to be signed during an official visit to Kiev by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk has told journalists. According to him, both sides have recently stepped up their work on the document, which will become a foundation for relations between the two neighboring countries.

Kravchuk Denies Retargeting Missiles at Russia

LD1904214594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by unidentified correspondent at ceremony to open a new children's clinic in Kiev on 19 April;—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Leonid Makarovych, the paradoxes in life today are endless, are they not? Today, the Russian press publishes materials on the intention of Ukraine to capture Kuban and develop new types of mass destruction weapons, while the Ukrainian president is opening a clinic for children.

[Kravchuk, laughing] You said it yourself and this is paradoxical indeed. Paradoxes in the press—in this case in some of the Russian newspapers—are, unfortunately, paradoxical indeed. I have read this publication today and I am under the impression that this is a kind of myth. Somebody thought: Why not create a myth? So this myth is being passed off as some reality.

I can tell you right out that nobody has issued any instructions for missiles to be retargeted, neither the president nor the Defense Council nor other state structures of ours. It has not even crossed our minds. As they say, it is only imaginative writing presenting it as reality.

Nor is there, was there, will there, or can there be any development of any mass destruction weapons, because in general we as a state have been against mass destruction weapons right from the outset. We have no chemical or bacteriological weapons, and we as a state have determined our position with regard to eliminating nuclear weapons.

The impression is, you know, that this is some kind of unhealthy perception of Ukraine and I can say no more. I would just like to say that this is simply a myth. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk for Dividing Fleet, Leasing Sevastopol

LD1904204294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk told journalists in Kiev Tuesday that the Black Sea Fleet in its present condition was in practice not subordinate to Ukraine, while both Russia and Ukraine take responsibility for its actions.

Kravchuk said that it should be made stipulated as soon as possible that the Black Sea Fleet is a Russian fleet with Russian laws and that Russia takes responsibility for its actions, while Ukraine takes responsibility for the actions of its own fleet.

Noting that at present certain statements made by participants at the April 15 talks in Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet were being interpreted in different ways, Kravchuk said that there was one official position—to resolve the question of the Black Sea Fleet, in particular the question of its base, its division, and the payment to Ukraine for the part handed over to Russia.

Kravchuk went on to say that Ukraine was sticking to the terms of the four document on the subject—those prepared in Yalta, Zavidovo, Massandra and now Moscow. "I would like the fifth document to be the least [as received]—then we will have a magnificent five," said Kravchuk.

He said he supported the idea that Sevastopol should become a naval base for the Russian fleet and that it should be leased on terms recognized around the world.

"I support this idea because I do not see another option. I cannot imagine that other, Ukrainian naval forces would lie side by side with Russian ones. The Ukrainian navy should have its own base."

He said that Sevastopol should not become a Russian town, but rather the base of the Russian fleet. "The wording should be carefully defined," he said.

Further on Black Sea Fleet

LD1904202294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—On 19 April Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk attended the opening of a new outpatient child clinic in Kharkovskiy district intended for 30,000 local children.

The Ukrainian president was interviewed on current political issues. He said, in particular, that the Black Sea Fleet problem must be resolved as soon as possible. "We need to settle it as soon as possible, so that instead of a Russian fleet with Russia's laws, Ukraine will have its own fleet. I do not see any other option than leasing the Sevastopol base to the Russian fleet. Leaving the Ukrainian Navy there would be dangerous. There will be no peace as long as the Ukrainian and Russian naval forces are together."

Asked about his nomination in the next presidential election by a group of electors in Vinnitsa oblast, Leonid Kravchuk replied: "I am grateful to the voters. I have very close ties with Vinnitsa oblast; I was nominated and elected to parliament in Yampolskiy constituency there, and when I was nominated for presidency they also supported me, so I am sincerely grateful."

Defense Minister Sends Message to Fleet Command

LD2004101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0932 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Sevastopol should be the joint base of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, Ukrainian Defense Minister Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy said in a telegram today to the Black Sea Fleet Command. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the Black Sea Fleet's press center.

Russia is known to oppose the idea of a joint base for Black Sea Fleet vessels and the Ukrainian Navy. In the view of Russian experts, Sevastopol should remain the main base for the Black Sea Fleet.

The Black Sea Fleet's press center said that many hopes of settling the problems of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol are placed on the three-day visit to the main base of the Black Sea Fleet by Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, which begins today.

Immediately after his arrival this evening, Pavel Grachev is expected to meet with the Fleet Command and the city's administration. Talks with a Ukrainian military delegation are to begin Thursday at 1000. The signing of Russian-Ukrainian documents is expected Friday.

Diplomat on Decision To Establish Ties With FRY

LD1904215194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN has learned on 19 April that Ukraine has not yet decided on a candidate for the post of its charge d'affaires in Yugoslavia, with which it recently established diplomatic relations. Yugoslavia has already appointed a charge d'affaires in Kiev, (Milos Jovanovic), a full-time diplomat.

A high-ranking Ukrainian diplomat who asked not to be identified said the decision to establish diplomatic relations with Serbia and Montenegro, against which the United Nations had introduced sanctions, had to do with the enlargement of Ukraine's peace-keeping forces in the vicinity of Gorazde and the possible conflicts this may involve.

"Ukraine's consulate general in Belgrade headed by Vadym Prymachenko will hardly be able to solve all the possible problems without representative powers at a senior level," he said. The same diplomat believes that serious diplomatic work will be required in the region following a political decision to compensate the countries of the Danube area for their losses incurred as a a result of the UN sanctions against Serbia. Ukraine suffered huge losses because of the sanctions.

Zlenko Meets Indian Premier, Foreign Minister

LD1904201094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1837 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Kotov, Vladimir Shvedov]

[Text] New Delhi 19 April, TASS—Ukraine and India are prepared to contribute to the strengthening of peace and cooperation in South Asia, jointly seek universal and complete nuclear disarmament and to eliminate existing hot beds of tension through political means, this was underscored during talks today between Prime Minister of India P.V. Narasimha Rao and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko who is here on an offical visit.

The head of the Ukrainian foreign affairs department expressed support for India's fight for strengthening its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Zlenko emphasised that Indian leadership's stand for the destruction of all nuclear arsenals in conformation with the plan of action for the creation of a nuclear- free world, which was worked out by former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is regarded with understanding in Kiev.

P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed support for practical steps taken by Ukraine to achieve non-nuclear status. The head of the Indian Government highly appreciated Kiev's contribution to strengthen stability in the world and the development of equal and partner-like relations between all members of the world community. The two sides reaffirmed their interest in the continuation of consultations between the two countries on questions of bilateral and international issues on a permanent basis.

The same day Zlenko held talks with Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh. It was stressed during the meeting that India attaches great importance to relations with Ukraine which bear a progressive character, especially in the sphere of economics. Dinesh Singh, in particular, expressed India's readiness to provide necessary assistance to Ukraine in the implementation of its wide- ranging economic reform programmes and transition towards a market economy.

India and Ukraine signed today agreements on setting up a Ukrainian-Indian intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, a protocol on consultations between Foreign Ministries of the two countries and other documents.

Signs Agreements During Visit

LD1904170894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko today began his official visit to India. In Delhi he met Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and held negotiations with Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh. Two agreements were signed, on an intergovernmental commission for a number of cooperation areas and on economic and technical cooperation, as well as a protocol on consultations between the Foreign Ministries. During the course of the visit, meetings are being held between Ukraine's and India's business people, our special correspondent reports from Delhi.

Foreign Minister on Kiev-Moscow Treaty

LD1904220094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1946 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Kotov, Vladimir Shvedov]

[Text] New Delhi 19 April TASS—"Kiev pays major attention to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations with Russia and the Russian people," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told a news conference here today. The Ukrainian minister is currently on an official visit to India.

"The major aim of our policy is consolidation of Ukrainian-Russian relations. The immediate elaboration of a comprehensive bilateral treaty on friendship and cooperation as it was agreed by the Commonwealth state and government heads will help this consolidation," he said.

"Work on the document has been done since 1993. Unfortunately, there was a delay in finalization of the agreement on reasons not depending on Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and me were instructed by our presidents to boost the document's elaboration. The treaty is expected to reflect new realities in the Ukrainian-Russian relations and outline a way for the solution of the current problems. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk invited Boris Yeltsin to come to Kiev on an official visit to sign the document," said the foreign minister.

"Permanent negotiations with Russia enable solution of any problems in bilateral relations. We are satisfied with Yeltsin's readiness to help remove obstacles on the way of development of our friendship and cooperation and his statement saying Russia respects territorial integrity of Ukraine, inviolability of its borders and sovereignty.

"As for the division of the Black Sea Fleet, Kiev and Moscow are progressing step by step to the solution of this problem. A new agreement on the Black Sea Fleet that is being elaborated will focus on separate bases of the Russian and Ukrainian navies," said Zlenko. However, this, in his opinion, will not help to eliminate all problems related to the Black Sea Fleet's future. Experts are still to analyze the division parameters.

Ukraine is ready to have 15-20 per cent of the ships it received under the Moscow agreement signed in September 1993, said the foreign minister. The rest of the fleet will be passed over to Russia. The new document will give a fresh impetus to the work on remaining problems of the Black Sea Fleet, said Zlenko.

Plyushch, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Elections, Ties

LD1904110594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] On Monday, 18 April, Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch met in Kiev with U.S. ambassador to Ukraine William Miller at the latter's request, the Supreme Council press center reported. The Ukrainian parliament speaker informed Mr. Miller about the parliamentary elections' outcome and returns. As Mr. Plyushch stated, the 338 newly elected MP's have thus secured the parliament's constitutional majority necessary for its legal functioning. Repeated voting will soon be held in those electoral districts where no deputies were elected as a result of the [word indistinct] elections.

As Mr. Plyushch noted, the new parliament reflects the worst political forces in Ukraine, but yet there is a hope that in the final analysis their actions will not be ruinous to Ukraine's sovereign statehood and that their concerted efforts will promote democratic political and radical economic reforms in Ukraine. To make out his case the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman referred to his meetings and talks with the freshly elected leftists, communists included, who reiterated their commitment to construction of a really independent, democratic and prosperous Ukraine. During the meeting issues of U.S.-Ukrainian relations as well as some international problems were touched upon. The two officials were unanimous in expressing the dire necessity to promote global and regional peace, extinguish armed conflict, and preserve intact European borders. The Supreme Council chairman thanked the U.S. ambassador for his concern over U.S.-Ukrainian economic relations, for helping alleviate the aftermath of Chernobyl, and U.S. humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Naval Delegation Visits U.S.; To Observe Exercises

WS1904194794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation of Ukrainian naval servicemen, headed by Rear Admiral Mykola Kostrov, deputy commander in chief of Ukraine's Navy, is currently visiting the United States. The press center of the Ukrainian Navy reports in connection with this that during their trip, members of the delegation will visit military education facilities, educational centers, and U.S. Marine training grounds. Ukrainian officers have been offered the possibility to observe a joint training exercise of U.S. Navy personnel and Marines on the Atlantic coast. All expenses connected with the delegation's trip are being covered by the U.S. side.

National Affairs

Black Sea Fleet's Izmail River Craft Unit on Alert

LD2004085994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The press center of the Black Sea Fleet told an RIA correspondent today that a meeting of personnel of the Black Sea Fleet's Izmail river craft unit was held on 19 April. It was held in connection with the announcement by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense that the unit was to be disbanded and the 3d River Guard Brigade was to be set up in its place. The unit's sailors have refused to obey the instructions of the Ministry of Defense on swearing allegiance to Ukraine. The unit's entire personnel has decided to prevent the seizure by force of the unit's vessels and coastal facilities and, as a result, river craft sailors are on alert from today.

Chernobyl Safety Switches on After 'Accident'

LD1904192094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1840 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev April 19 TASS—The safety system switched on in the third power unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, Ukraine, during Monday's increase of the unit capacity after the planned repairs.

A reason for this was the lowered water level in hydroballoons of the reactor's emergency cooling system. The accident is estimated as the first level (the international scale) and does not endanger the plant's personnel or safe operation of the facility.

New Head of Chernobyl Power Station Appointed

MK2004072094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "New Chernobyl Director"]

[Text] Sergey Parashin has been appointed general director of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Station [AES] by the decision of Ukraine's Ministry of Atomic Energy collegium. Before this he worked as deputy director of the Chernobyl AES for economic matters. Taking the position of general director, Sergey Parashin stated that he considers it as one of his main tasks to convince the public that the Chernobyl AES is no less safe than the other nuclear stations of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Cancels Crimean Presidential Edicts

AU2004092794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Apr 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on 11 April 1994 Edicts No. 33 and No. 34 by the President of the Crimean Republic" issued in Kiev on 14 April]

[Text] On 11 April 1994, the president of the Crimean Republic issued Edict No. 33 appointing V.M. Lepikhov as acting chairman of the Security Service of the Crimean Republic and Edict No. 34 in accordance with which the powers of acting chairman of the Security Service of the Crimean Republic I.F. Kolomytsev were suspended.

The aforementioned edicts are at variance with the Ukrainian Constitution (Article 75-1) and Ukrainian laws.

The decrees issued by the president of the Crimean Republic have violated the clauses of the Ukrainian laws "On the Division of Powers Among the Bodies of State Power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic" and "On Ukraine's Security Service," in accordance with which chairman of the Security Service of the Crimean Republic must be appointed or dismissed.

Proceeding from this and in accordance with clause 7-2 of Article 114-5 of the Ukrainian Constitution, I resolve as follows:

1. To cancel 22 April 1994 Crimean presidential edicts No. 33 "On the Acting Chairman of the Security Service of the Crimean Republic" and No. 34 "On Suspending the Powers of Acting Chairman of the Security Service of the Crimean Republic" as such that are at variance with the Ukrainian Constitution and Ukrainian laws "On the Division of Powers Among the Bodies of State Power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic" and "On Ukraine's Security Service."

2. This edicts becomes effective on the day of its signing.
[Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk
[Dated] Kiev, 14 Apr 1994

Nationalist Urges Sailors To 'Use Weapons'

AU1904153294 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sevastopol: The Situation Is Becoming Further Exacerbated"]

[Text] Chief commander of the Russian Navy F. Gromov and commander of the Black Sea Fleet E. Baltin held an exclusive news conference on the results of their visit to Sevastopol for "Ostankino," the Russian Radio and press of the Russian Federation. Ukrainian journalists were not admitted there. As has become known, the admirals put all the blame for the incident in Odessa involving the Black Sea Fleet ship "Cheleken" on the Ukrainian side.

In accordance with reliable data, the cruiser "Admiral Holovko" and other warships of the Black Sea Fleet have been loaded with munitions and put on full combat alert. In accordance with as yet unconfirmed data, Admiral E. Baltin has handed in his resignation.

On 14 April, the Sevastopol City Council Board held a meeting at which first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet V. Larionov said that the Black Sea Fleet Military Procurator's Office had inspected the "Cheleken" and revealed no violations "on our part." According to the Ukrainian side, the "Cheleken" had contraband goods on board. At the proposal by chairman of the City Council Viktor Semenov, a decision was adopted to hold, on 19 April, an extraordinary session of the City Council with "The Situation Around the Black Sea Fleet" on the agenda. The same session will adopt a questionnaire for holding a survey among the city residents: Should Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet belong to Ukraine or to Russia? Chairman of the "Russian Party of Sevastopol" O. Kruglov (he is a deputy of the City Council and of the Crimean Supreme Council) stated the following at the meeting of the City Council Board regarding the incident with the "Cheleken": "I hope that the next time the Black Sea Fleet sailors will use weapons."

Crimea Economic Plans Said To 'Contradict' Guidelines

WS2004081694 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 2126 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 16, 11-17 April 94]

[Text] According to reliable sources in Simferopol, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov signed a package of documents on 14 April, which in many respects contradict Kiev's basic economic guidelines. No official response from the central authority followed, however.

The Crimean President's Decree on currency regulation and control provides, in particular, for establishment, within a two-month term of the Crimean Interbank Currency Exchange, which is supposed to sell the mandatory 50-percent share of Crimea's aggregate hard currency incomings to Crimea's residents.

Prior to the hard currency trading onset Crimean residents are free to opt for one of the following modes:

(a) Effect mandatory 50 percent currency sales and purchases on the Crimean interbank market at a free rate, or

(b) Pay the currency tax at rates set by the Crimean Government.

The remainder of hard currency incomings is supposed to be used by Crimean residents at their discretion.

Foreign currency means derived by natural person-residents by way of their labor remuneration, except those earned through business activities, are exempt from the otherwise mandatory sale.

The Crimean Republican Bank sets exchange rates for currencies on a daily basis.

So, if this decree proves viable and working, Crimea's currency regulation mode will radically differ from the Ukrainian government-imposed practices, which imply mandatory selling a half of all the currency earned by Ukrainian producer-exporters at the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine]-set rate maintained at the very unrealistic 1,2610 krb. [karbovonets]:1 USD rate for over five months by now. The other half of hard currency earnings may be used only by the agreement of the Cabinet's body, which was specifically set up for this purpose.

Crimean President Meshkov's decree on improving taxation and settling in Crimea's national economy contains some innovative provisions, not consistent with Ukraine's active legislation, in particular, abrogation of the income tax and introduction of a 30 percent tax on juridical persons' profits, consumption funds for all tax-payers, irrespective of their proprietorial form status, reduced VAT and excise for a number of commodities to spur their marketing.

The decree's preamble states that their issuance was by way of compliance with President Kravchuk's decree of 23 June 1993 "On the open economy regime on the Crimean Republic's territory."

In view of Kiev's lacking official comments it's a matter of pure guess-work and sheer conjecture to try to both determine the Crimean presidential decrees' politically declarative content and predict how soon, if ever, they will be nullified by President Kravchuk.

However, if really implemented, they are certain to attract a massive flow of banking capital into the peninsular republic.

Many analysts tend to trace the decrees to Chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers Saburov, who more likely than not is their architect.

Government Resolves To Share State Property With Crimea

WS1904133894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on the division of state property between the state and the Republic of Crimea. According to the resolution, state property of enterprises in such areas as retail trade, public catering, civil, housing, and municipal services, as well as property of certain enterprises of [word indistinct] and the hotel industry, which are located on the territory of the Crimean Republic, will become the property of the Crimean Republic. The inventory also includes certain construction companies and enterprises of the machine-building, local, food, processing, woodworking, and light industries, as well as auto transport and [words indistinct].

The resolutions stipulates that ministries and departments will submit to the Economy Ministry their proposals regarding an inventory of enterprises located on the territory of the Crimean Republic, privatization of which, according to the existing legislation, should be coordinated with the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

According to the resolution, it has been decided that enterprises and organizations, the property of which will become property of the Crimean Republic, will maintain in 1994 the budget relations that existed at the time their property was handed over.

Crimean Leader Issues Directives on Government

LD1904220794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's directives "On changes to the system of central bodies of state and executive power in the Republic of Crimea" and "On the Government of Crimea," signed by him on 12 April, became known on 19 April. According to the former, the system of central bodies of state power in the Republic of Crimea temporarily—until the formation of central bodies of power under the appropriate procedure—comprise nine ministries, which are the economy, finance, state enterprises management, social policy, agriculture and food, internal affairs, and justice ministries, the State Affairs Service having the rights of a ministry, and the Security Service of the Republic of Crimea. Until the appointment of ministers under the appropriate procedure, officials who are appointed and dismissed by the Crimean president upon the submission of candidacies by the deputy prime minister are in charge of the ministries.

The directive reads: "The government of Crimea has the right to create state committees, directorates, and other departments, as well as to reorganize and disband them."

The directive "On the Government of Crimea" points out that "the Government of Crimea consists of the president of the Republic of Crimea, the government's deputy premier, the economy, finance, state enterprises management, social policy, agriculture and food, internal affairs, and justice ministers, the chairman of Crimea's State Security Service, and the head of the Republic of Crimea State Affairs Service. The government of Crimea is empowered to settle all issues of state government that are within the Republic of Crimea's jurisdiction, except for those subject to be dealt with by the Supreme Council."

On (?19) April, President Yuriy Meshkov (?issued a directive) appointing Viktor Minin as acting minister in charge of the Republic of Crimea's state affairs, Lyubov Yeliseyeva-Bora as acting justice minister and Serhiy Nikolskyy as Crimea's acting agriculture and food minister.

Security Official Views Crimea Personnel Dispute

WS2004093494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has not managed to dismiss Major General Ivan Kolomytsev, chief of the Crimean Security Service. Despite the fact, so to speak, that an alternate candidate for the office of Crimean Security Service chief—Reserve Major General Volodymyr Lepikov—has appeared at the Security Service building, Ivan Kolomytsev has left neither his office nor duties. Our correspondent Anatoliy Polonskyy has the details.

[Begin recording] [Polonskyy] The law has won. This was made possible thanks to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's decree and a clear position of the Security Service staff, who have prevented their activities from being shifted from the legal sphere into politics. The Crimeans have obtained great moral support from their colleagues from other regions of Ukraine. A tribute should also be paid to Ivan Kolomytsev himself. During these extremely hard days, he has shown self-restraint, courage, and allegiance to the oath. Are Kolomytsev's supervisors satisfied with his professional skills? I have addressed this question to Valeriy Malikov, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Security Service.

[Malikov] Yes, we are satisfied. Moreover, as I have been told, the Crimean president said that he had no reservations toward Ivan Kolomytsev, while visiting the service and examining the issue of replacing its chief.

[Polonskyy] Why then did he decide to dismiss him?

[Malikov] Excuse me, but this question should be addressed to someone else. I have met here with representatives of the Presidential Administration and the Crimean Cabinet of Ministers. I have also met with several representatives of Crimean political parties and movements, and I have not understood why such a problem has arisen. Moreover, I have reached an understanding with the majority of people I have had conversations with, that this issue must not be resolved in this manner. There is a legal way of appointing or dismissing the Crimean Security Service chief. This decision should be coordinated with the Crimean Supreme Council and, of course, the Ukrainian Security Service.

[Polonskyy] Valeriy Vasylovych, what could you say regarding the Crimean press reports on reinforcing your service's military units in the Crimea? It has also been reported that special assignment units from Kiev arrived in the Crimea. How would you comment on this?

[Malikov] As for reinforcing the Crimean Security Service with our special services, I can assure you, with all the responsibility, that such a fact has not occurred.

Nobody has arrived here, to reinforce, or do anything else. Regarding other military units, I have received neither official nor operational reports indicating that this has taken place here.

[Polonskyy] Is something currently threatening the national security in the Crimea?

[Malikov] I do not know of any factors which would somehow influence the national security of the Crimea. I do not know of anything that would threaten the national security—something that exists only in the Crimea and does not occur in other regions of Ukraine.

[Polonskyy] So, there are no grounds for introducing a state of emergency in the Crimea?

[Malikov] As of today, I do not see any. [end recording]

No Presidendial Candidates Registered for Election

LD1904112294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] According to the central electoral commission, not a single candidate has been registered in Kiev a week before the final date for registration of contenders for candidate for president of Ukraine.

Ivan Hulchenko, head of the section for working with parties, has informed UNIAN that as of 18 April the Central Electoral Commission (TsVK) had registered the Socialist and Social-Democratic parties of Ukraine as intending to nominate a contender for candidate for president of Ukraine. Apart from them another four parties (Communist Party of Ukraine, Labor Congress of Ukraine, Party of Free Peasants of Ukraine, and the "State Independence of Ukraine" association) have submitted registration documents. According to Ivan Hulchenko, they have to submit certain information, after which they will receive forms to collect 100,000 signatures in support of their contenders.

According to Stepan Hamanyuk, an employee at the registration section of the Central Electoral Commission, to date, a week before the final date for registration, the Central Electoral Commission has not registered a single contender for candidate for president of Ukraine.

State Budget Remains Unadjusted After 1st Quarter

WS2004075394 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 2126 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 16, 11-17 April 94]

[Text] The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's (parliament) resolution, which enacted the State Budget for 1994, provides for its quarterly revision.

Nonetheless, neither the parliament, nor its Committee for planning, budgeting, financing and pricing have stirred a finger to bring the issue under deliberations.

As Andrei Pecherov, chairman of the said committee, explained in an interview to UKRINFORM's correspondent, the interfering parliamentary elections are to blame. With the freshly elected parliament yet to convene its maiden plenary session the State Budget's performance in the first quarter, and hence, its correction, are highly improbable to ever occur.

It may be noted that the State Budget's miraculous deficit-free nature was very skeptically and reluctantly accepted by the MP's. Alas, it is precisely on what international financial institutions insist. In view of this, in the process of drafting the State Budget's deficit was gradually reduced to nil.

Ministry Says Mar Inflation Lowest Since Sep 91

WS2004092894 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 2126 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 16, 11-17 April 94]

[Text] According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics, Ukraine's inflation rate in March was 105.7 per cent, the lowest mark since September 1991.

The averaged cost of vital foods in the consumer basket was 431,500 karbovanets in prices charged by state-run and non-state-run shops. The gap between the consumer basket's minimal and maximal costs widened to 45.5 per cent with the city of Sevastopol and the Kirovograd region forming two poles with 536,000 krb. and 368,500 krb., respectively.

In urban collective farm market prices the basket weighed as much as 523,000 krb. to exceed the state-run retail trade's prices by 21.2 per cent.

Food prices grew by 3 per cent in March, on the average, and were virtually unchanged for dairy products, sunflower seed oil, margarine, rice, buckwheat, sausages, mayonnaise, and yeast. Prices for meat, pork fat, eggs, citrus fruits, vodka dropped by 8 per cent, on the average.

Prices grew, however, for certain manufactured goods, such as children's clothes (by 11 per cent) and footwear (by 21 per cent), pharmaceutical products (by 21 per cent), books, newspapers and office materials (by 14 per cent).

The 23 March - 5 April period witnessed a steeper price growth versus the preceding 10-day period; food prices in state-run shops and co-ops grew by 2.1 per cent, and collective farm market prices by 1.4 per cent versus the previous 10-day period's figures of 1.2 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

Food price growth rates were the highest in Crimea (by 11 per cent), while in Ukraine's 12 regions (Zhitomir, Transcarpathian, Zaporozhye, Poltava, Ivano-Frankovsk, Kiev, Rivne, Kherson, Khmelnitski, Cherkassy and Chernigov) the price growth rates were between 3 and 4 per cent.

Bread products baked from first and extra brands of flour became sizably more expensive with prices for them having grown by 72 per cent in Crimea, by 20 per cent in the Cherkassy region (in both cases higher prices were imposed by the republican and regional administrations), and by 18 per cent in the Transcarpathian region, by 28 per cent in Ivano-Frankovsk region, by 12 per cent in the Kirovograd region, by 20 per cent in the Lvov region, and by 9 per cent in the Ternopol region because of flour prices raised by suppliers.

Inter-regional wide variations persisted in prices for certain food products. Thus, prices for cheeses with low fat content varied by as much as 6.8 times (2,778 krb. per kg. in the Chernigov region and 18,930 krb. per kg. in Kiev city), farina prices by 5.6 times (1,800 krb. per kg. in the Ternopol region vs 10,000 krb. per kg. in the Volyn region), flour prices by 3.5 times (2,390 krb. per kg. in the Kirovograd region and 8,480 krb. per kg. in the Kiev region), prices for rolled oats by 3.2 times (3,180 krb. per kg. in the Rovno region and 10,200 krb. per kg. in the Nikolaev region).

Food price hikes were the steepest in the Kherson (by 16 per cent), Rovno (by 8 per cent), Kirovograd and Volyn (by 7 per cent) regions. Vegetables were most affected by price growths, while beef, pork and pork fat prices were largely immune to these. Dairy products and butter, sunflower seed oil, potatoes and eggs were slightly cheaper (prices for them dropped, respectively, by 1 per cent to 2 per cent, 4 per cent and 9 per cent).

It should be noted that urban collective farm markets witnessed a two-times lower price growth for basic foods, as compared with state-run retail trade, with some food products sold by farmers at lower prices than what government-owned shops charged for similar foods.

Prices for manufactured goods charged by state-run shops grew by 25 per cent in the Transcarpathian region followed by the Kirovograd (by 17 per cent), Rovno (by 13 per cent) and Ivano-Frankovsk (by 10 per cent) regions, over the last ten-day period.

SOME ASPECTS OF UKRAINIAN INDUSTRIES' PERFORMANCE IN 1993

	March 1993	1st quarter of 1993	1st quarter of 1994
Aggregate industrial output—expressed in active wholesale prices set by enterprises, billion Ukrb.	52,927.9	158,171.1	6,233.3
Expressed in comparative wholesale prices as of January 1, 1994, billion Ukrb.	39,462.1	115,469.6	187,300.6
Industrial output decrease rates (in comparable prices)		- 38.4	- 4.8
Percent, x]versus the previous		——	——
Year's respective period	- 42.6	- 43.0	- 15.0
Averaged daily industrial output (in active wholesale prices), billion Ukrb.	2,219.7	2,125.7	84.0

[ ]The numerator shows the reduction rate based on enterprises' reports about their output in comparable prices; the denominator shows estimated production figures in kind.

Economic Performance in 1st Quarter 1994

WS2004090094 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 2126 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 16, 11-17 April 94]

[Text] Experts with the Economics Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine compiled a composite report about Ukraine's economic performance in the first quarter of 1994.

According to it, national income dropped by 36 per cent versus the January-March period of 1993. While January's production drop versus January 1993 was by 32.7 per cent, it amounted to 35.7 per cent during the January-February period and rose to 38.4 per cent for the entire first quarter.

The consolidated budget's revenues amounted to 35 trillion krb. in the January-February period (i.e. only 8.4. per cent of the approved budget's figure). The consolidated budget's expenditures exceeded 40 trillion krb. [karbovanets] with welfare having consumed 6.6 trillion krb. (16.4 per cent of total expenditures), financing the societal-cultural sector having accounted for 9.8 trillion krb. (24.4 per cent), and the national economy, having attracted 18.38 per cent of total financing.

Besides, 6.5 trillion krb. credits by NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] and other banks were drawn to offset the budget's deficit and cover some other outlays.

Reduced production resulted in budgetary revenues' losses through underpaid VAT to the tune of 2.8 trillion krb. and excise to the tune of 1.8 trillion krb. Ukraine's payment crisis led to underpaid taxes, which reduced by 4.4 times, and the aggregate loss reached 1.5 trillion krb. as of 1 March.

The first quarter's subsidies to the tune of 6 trillion krb. were involved in the state's price regulation and channeled to the population's social of protection (foods, medicines, solid fuels, livestock, milk, housing, public amenities), to the tune of 2.7 trillion krb. and to offset the coal price difference to the tune of 3.3 trillion krb.

The aggregate amount of credit investments (credit indebtedness) of Ukraine's banks in economy amounted to 70.7 trillion krb., as of 1 March, including NBU's 22.5 trillion krb. credits, commercial banks' 48.2 trillion krb. credits and the former Union nations' bank affiliates' 98 billion krb. credits.

The average weighted rate for commercial bank credits amounted to 385 per cent versus January's 310 per cent. It varied from the maximal value of 900 per cent to the minimal 1 per cent rate.

The debit-credit indebtedness of Ukraine's enterprises and organisations continued to accumulate. Credit indebtedness grew by 35.3 per cent during January and February to amount to 172.3 trillion krb. in early March. Debit indebtedness grew by 32 per cent and equalled 131.5 trillion krb. The share of unprofitable enterprises in Ukraine's national economy grew from 16 per cent in 1993's first quarter to 24.1 per cent in the January-February period of 1994.

Ukraine's coal-mining industry extracted 27.7 million tons of coal, or by 16.1 per cent less than in the January-March period of 1993. A third of engineering enterprises had to shift to a reduced work-week. The Luganskteplovoz production association was idling for almost two month, though it is Ukraine's sole enterprise, which manufactures diesel locomotives. While it manufactured as many as 63 diesel locomotives in the January-March of 1993 period, this year it produced only five of these. The underlying reason is loss of former markets, as Russia used to be the Ukrainian manufacturers' major customer.

Ukraine's collective and state farms have embarked on spring crop sowing. 936,000 ha of perished winter crop areas have been resown with spring crops out of 2 million ha.

Ukraine's foreign trade turn-over with the "near abroad" (that is former Union) nations amounted to 50.2 trillion krb. in the 1st quarter of 1994 including 27 trillion krb. exports and 23.2 trillion krb. imports. Foreign trade turn-over with "far abroad" nations totalled 1,214 million USD including 726 million USD exports and 488 million USD imports. Ukraine's favorable balance thus amounted to 238 million USD.

Ukraine's metallurgical engineering somewhat improved its performance in March. Averaged daily manufacture of ready rolled metal and steel piping increased by respectively 2.8 per cent and 2.3 per cent versus February and by 7.3 pr cent and 23.4 per cent versus January. However, their production fell short of the target plan figures by 2.9 million tons of rolled metal and 750,000 tons of steel piping.

Fuel and raw material shortages remained chronic. Gas supplies to metallurgical works amounted to 72 per cent of what was supplied to them in the January-March period of 1993. Similarly, supplies of scrap, metallurgical coal and electric power were respectively at 56 per cent, 78 per cent and 72 per cent marks versus 1993's first quarter. Ukraine's coal miners supplied metallurgical coal in amounts, which were by 350,000 tons less than what the plan provided for. Ukraine's coal imports amounted to about 200,000 tons, or about a tenth of Ukraine's demand. Undersupplies of scrap amounted to 620,000 tons, which resulted in eleven blast-furnaces (20 per cent of the total amount) and 23 Siemens-Martin open-hearth furnaces (30 per cent of the total) idling in March.

The averaged monthly wages of workers engaged in the state-owned sector of Ukraine's national economy amounted to 760,100 krb. in February. Workers engaged in housing, household services, public amenities, public catering, agriculture, social welfare, education and culture, were among the lowest-paid bracket with wages and salaries ranging from 380,900 to 451,000 karbovanets per month.

As of late February, the number of jobless persons registered by the employment service amounted to 138,000. 93,100 persons were granted the unemployed status, which was 0.4 per cent of the economically active and able-bodied population. The state's relief per unemployed individual amounted to 147,800 krb. in February.

Ukrainian National Economy's Basic Performance Over 1st Quarter, 1994

	Factual Output	Rated of increase/ decrease (-) vs 1st quarter, 1993 percent	Average daily production rate in	
			Feb 1994	Mar 1994
Electric power generated by utility power plant and blockplants, MWe	55,001	-17.1	645	593
Oil, including gas condensate, ths t.	1,039	-3.3	11.5	11.8
Natural gas, b. cu. m.	4,5[illegible]	-5.1	51.1	51.8
Coal, ths t.	27,667	-16.1	311	307
Mineral fertilizers, ths t.	456	-38.6	5.3	5.0

	Factual Output	Rated of increase/ decrease (-) vs 1st quarter, 1993 percent	Average daily production rate in	
			Feb 1994	Mar 1994
Tires, total, ths	1,817	-25.7	22.6	18.5
including truck tires, ths	247.2	-54.3	3.2	2.0
automobile tires, ths	1,315.6	-7.7	16.3	13.9
agricultural machinery tires, ths	83.3	-62.0	1.1	1.0
Primarily petroleum processing, ths t.	3,111	-52.6	34.5	22.5
Automotive gasoline, ths t.	582	-46.2	4.4	6.8
Diesel fuel, ths t.	809	-52.2	7.7	6.9
Ready rolled metal, ths t.	3,674	-42.2	42.7	41.5
Steel piping, ths t.	268	-73.7	3.1	3.2
Cement, ths t.	1,986	-52.6	21.4	19.3
Flexible roofing and insulating materials, mln. sq. m.	6,652	-71.6	35.0	147.0
Paper, ths t.	24.2	-51.3	0.3	0.3
Cardboard, ths t.	45.6	-46.2	0.5	0.5
Metal-cutting machine-tools	2,490	-25.6	53	24
Hammer forging and press machines	889	-53.2	14	14
Excavators	535	-67.0	10	9
Tractors	4,212	-77.0	83	40
Automobiles and trucks	28,477	-29.1	494	422
Fabrics, mln. sq. m.:				
cotton fabrics	48.6	-32.0	0.9	0.7
flax-fiber fabrics	12.2	-18.7	0.22	0.19
woolen fabrics	7.7	-52.0	0.14	0.11
silk fabrics	14.8	-67.9	0.25	0.19
Underwear, mln.	13.8	-49.0	0.24	0.24
Knitted wear, mln.	7.1	-50.1	0.12	0.10
Hosiery, mln. pairs	47.2	-36.4	0.8	0.7
Footwear, mln. pairs	10.7	-66.4	0.19	0.15
Meat, ths t.	227	-39.0	3.6	3.7
Whole-milk dairy products, ths t.	520	-31.0	6.0	5.8
Butter, ths t.	43.0	8.3	0.4	0.5
Vegetable oil, ths t.	170	-19.5	2.1	1.6
Laundry soap, ths t.	19.9	-11.6	0.35	0.26
Toilet soap, ths t.	5.6	-7.6	0.08	0.09
Refrigerators, ths	145	-23.3	2.5	2.5
TV set, ths	265	-54.6	4.5	3.9
including color TV set, ths	128	-61.0	2.3	1.9
Radio receivers, ths	82.5	-61.8	0.7	1.7
Washing-machines, ths	113	-34.4	1.6	2.0
Motor cycles, ths	6.2	-68.8	0.13	0.07
Tape recorders, ths	73.2	-83.0	1.1	1.2
Vacuum cleaners, ths	121	-54.6	1.9	2.0

Defense Minister on Problems Facing Military

WS1904180094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy by Anatoliy Smetanin; place and date not given: "Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukrainian Defense Minister: 'Political Party Will Not Influence the Army'"]

[Text] Now, in the period of their formation, Ukraine's Armed Forces, as is known, are having a hard time; servicemen and their burdens are not to be envied. One could feel this during our interview with Vitaliy Radetskyy, who honestly and openly answered all of our questions.

[Smetanin] You served in the Soviet Army for 30 years; now you are head of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. You know all the problems facing the Army. Is it within our power to change something for the better today? To what extent does this depend on the Defense Ministry?

[Radetskyy] To a great extent, and I will tell you why. Today, hollering for Ukraine is not enough; patriotic boasting is not enough. You surely have noticed: As time goes by, officers, or generals, are leaving the Defense Ministry one after another—either being transferred or fired. We will continue operating this way, because I need professionals, not bawlers. I have conducted an analysis. What have I discovered? Here is a typical example for you: An officer was an alcoholic in the Soviet Army, and still continues to drink and loaf. I asked him what is the reason? I did it earlier, he says, because I disliked the system, the politics. And what is the reason now? There is no reason. This is the first example.

Second, in the uproar and euphoria of independence, the central apparatus has been filled by many nonprofessionals. Well, imagine a high-ranking official making miscalculations by hundreds of equipment units! He is ignorant of many things, this is his tragedy, therefore one has to get rid of such a man, to transfer him to another post where he can work effectively.

Third, by now, we have a lot of young commanders of companies, battalions, regiments, divisions, and corps. They should be trained. Who has to do it, if not Defense Ministry officers and generals? It is an inconspicuous job that requires much knowledge, experience, and effort. It is much easier, you must admit, to come to a regiment, blame its commander for idleness, set a term for eliminating shortcomings, and go away.

No, we are not going to support such a style! One must change the men's psychology, such parasitical disposition. Thus far, some have not understood that they are serving under the Defense Ministry of the [independent] country, not in a district staff under the watchful eye of the Moscow General Staff which can send its messengers with a prompting word, a helping hand, and a receipt for every occurrence in life. No, by now, we have to think by ourselves; say, a chief of the chemical troops has to think for himself how to train and assign cadres, how to deal with state orders for equipment, armaments, and materials, how to anticipate the development of his troops... All this must by done by ourselves alone, and one has to face up to hard work and education!

[Smetanin] But we have some reform under way in the Army.

[Radetskyy] That is not the word. Reform, especially in military structures, includes in itself the reducing, expanding, and reequipping of troops. Just look at what we have inherited from the former USSR Armed Forces: three districts, part of an antiaircraft defense grouping and the Air Force, and various command posts. It is disgraceful to speak of reform in this case. We need a concrete plan to construct the Armed Forces. By now, such a plan has been worked out, and is being examined by the commander in chief. However, the most painful question surely regards state restrictions on military means. The Army has survived for almost two years without a budget. As for now, we have received only part of the means that we need to maintain combat readiness. If we are not going to beef up science, the military-industrial complex, and the Army, then, no matter what we call it—reform or a plan to construct the Armed Forces—we will get nowhere. I understand that the state gives what it can, but one should pay more attention to servicemen nonetheless.

[Smetanin] I fully agree with you, because, as you surely know, 67 percent of officers are dissatisfied with their service, 87 percent are annoyed over their low earnings, and 85 percent are disappointed with their poor standard of living... What can you say to them?

[Radetskyy] Yes, there are many discontented servicemen, and this percentage is an indicator of their discontent. However, it is also true that everything has its origin in the economic situation of our state. We have 70,000 families without housing right now! Where do I see a way out of this? We have adopted a resolution and will attempt to implement it: The construction of housing should be obligingly conducted with the building of family hostels, not those with a common hall and kitchen, but two-room apartments with furniture, in which principally the commanders of platoons or companies will be lodged. Right now, we are reevaluating rents, in order to increase them, surely.

The paying of salaries is a very acute problem today. An officer, as you know, lives from paycheck to paycheck, but if the salary is paid—as happens now—in installments and irregularly, this causes great tension. We are trying everything to avoid such a situation, but sometimes this is beyond our control. What is within our control? We are now pressing for paying per diem, if an officer is on duty; those with class specializations will be paid remuneration. The Cabinet of Ministers has received our proposal to acknowledge a free transportation pass for officers, at least for junior ones. We will also reexamine the payment of so-called "field commissions" ["polevyye"].

[Smetanin] I have the impression that professionals, instead of joining our Army, leave Ukraine, in particular, for Russia, and you try to order them to stay, especially pilots. Can you shed some light on this situation?

[Radetskyy] Let us begin with the statement that any such cases involve specific individuals and concrete circumstances, therefore one should approach each case objectively. The question concerns young officers, Ukrainian citizens, not those who are going to leave, say, for Russia or somewhere else. Unless we keep our young officers today, we will forfeit the future of the Army.

Now, about those who want to leave. I did foresee this problem as early as 1992, when the oath of allegiance was first administered. I appealed to not hurry its administration on a mass scale. Now we have to pay for that. With regard to officers who choose to serve in other CIS countries, nothing and no one should stand in their way. One must thank them for their service and help them leave in a civilized manner.

[Smetanin] You call it "in a civilized manner," when an officer after 20 years of service with housing here is not permitted to leave without resigning his apartment, which, of course, leaves him without a roof over his head at his new place of service. Where is he to live with his family in such a case?

[Radetskyy] If such a thing happens, then, I will repeat myself, one has to approach it with steps appropriate to each individual case. I know about several such examples: Before leaving, fictitious divorces are settled, then a "betrayed" wife, having privatized her apartment, sells it for hard currency and drives off happily to be with her husband. Such things also happen, therefore, one must approach this carefully, but without offensive suspicion.

[Smetanin] During his time in office, your predecessor kept his office open to representatives of political parties, while making statements that the Army should be outside of politics...

[Radetskyy] When I received my nomination for the post of defense minister, representatives of many parties rushed to me with proposals on cooperation. However, I stated firmly that the Army will not be influenced by them. There is a law stating that we should be impartial and outside politics. The task of the Army is to defend the state from external enemies, not from internal ones; I will respect all political forces, but they should not exercise any influence here. The Armed Forces are ruled by state ideology.

[Smetanin] ...And it should be implemented by the workers of education as well as social and psychological services. However, it seems to me that these workers—except for the replacing of Soviet marshals' portraits with those of Ukrainian hetmans—have no other reasons to be proud of themselves.

[Radetskyy] What is more, upon examining the work of the social and psychological service, I did see that they have not accomplished anything during their two years of existence: They did not draft a single project, a single blueprint on their topics; they did not publish one single handbook! When I gathered them at a department meeting and asked whether anyone had conducted a training seminar with soldiers, it turned out that nobody had! Here you have a state ideology. It is not enough to shout about the immediate introduction of the state language in the Army. With regard to language, this issue does not need to be forced—people will gradually adopt the language by themselves, without any pressure.

Besides, ideological work in the Army requires means; it requires a book on the history of Ukrainian statehood, which is inseparably linked with Russia's history. We were together during so many centuries, and not all of that past was so bad, as it is sometimes presented nowadays. I will add that we need to change people's attitudes toward our army and service in the Armed Forces, as well as the preparation of young people for military service. Let us take such a phenomenon as desertion from military units—this happens even though we no longer have a transpolar region, a Karabakh, or even a Chukotka today...

I cannot understand this dividing servicemen into Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, and Tatars... If a serviceman is a Ukrainian citizen, if he is an able man and can be useful in the Army, he should be promoted and supported in every way possible.

[Smetanin] This can also be said, by the way, about the Soviet Army, criticized justly and unjustly nowadays, in which a native of Cherkassy Oblast, Ukrainian Vitaliy Radetskiy, has risen from the ranks to be commander of Odessa Military District. Later, he became Ukraine's defense minister.

Belarus

Kebich Rejects Accusations on Monetary Unification

LD1904195894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich reacted with irony to the statements by Belarusian ex-speaker Stanislav Shuskevich and leader of the Belarusian Popular Front Zenon Poznyak who called the signing of Russian-Belarusian documents on the unification of monetary systems "a crime," press-secretary of the Belarusian prime minister Vladimir Zametalin told INTERFAX.

He said that "Kebich considers such accusations another provocation by national-reformists, and the treaty with Russia, in the opinion of the prime minister, is the only way to preserve Belarus' sovereignty."

Zametalin also announced the prime minister's plans to hold an open meeting of the presidium of the Council of Ministers in the near future with unlimited participation of all interested parties and mass media in order to stop speculations around "so-called corruption." (He referred to accusations against some high-ranking officials made by chairman of the recently disbanded parliamentary commission against corruption Aleksandr Lukashenko)

Zametalin also said that the government meeting will be attended by top officials of the Republic's General Prosecutor's Office.

Deputy Premier on Money Merger Ratification

WS1904133694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich believes that the Belarusian Supreme Soviet will certainly ratify the treaty with Russia on the unification of monetary systems. Speaking at a news conference at the third annual session of the Council of European Bank Managers, he said that Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko accepts the Belarusian approach toward a common emission policy within the framework of the unified monetary system.

Kebich on Monetary Merger Agreement, CIS Summit

WS2004100394

[Editorial Report] Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian at 0515 GMT on 20 April airs a 10-minute recorded interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich by reporter Syarhey Bulatskiy, assessing the signing of the agreement on the unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems. The date and place of the interview are not given; Kebich speaks in Russian.

The prime minister begins by responding to accusations by former legislative speaker Stanislaw Shushkevich and Popular Front Chairman Zyanon Paznyak who claim that the treaty "endangers the Republic's sovereignty." Popular Front deputies have sent a motion to the General Prosecutor's Office demanding that the signing of the treaty "receive a legal assessment." Kebich concentrates on the economic advantages of the treaty. According to him, Belarus will begin receiving duty-free products from Russia as of 1 May. Customs fees currently make up 30 to 40 percent of prices for products imported from Russia. Kebich points out that following the enactment of the treaty, Belarusian goods will be granted unhampered access to the Russian market, which will lower production costs. He says that "Belarusian goods will conquer the Russian market again and, as a final result, may bring about the reduction of retail prices."

Kebich points out that the reaction of certain political groups in the Republic to the signing of the treaty came as no surprise: "I used to tell government officials and members of the Council of Ministers Presidium that the signing of the treaty would give rise to hysterical screams by those who would claim that we betrayed our sovereignty. I categorically reject these kinds of claims." Kebich adds that the first deputy general prosecutor had telephoned him and requested access to documents necessary for conducting an investigation initiated by the deputies' motion.

Kebich underlines: "I know I did not violate the Constitution because I only signed that part of the treaty that lies within the government's competence. Article 5 was not signed by the National Bank because of existing reservations. Everything that refers to a change in the monetary system is under the bank's auspices and the bank voiced its reservations. Besides, I want to point out that the treaty has not come into effect because, just like any other treaty, it can be enacted only after all of its provisions are brought in line with our legislation. Thus, one way or another, there will be conflicts with some laws and we will have to amend them. I only did the Supreme Soviet's will. When the Supreme Soviet ratified the agreement on the introduction of monetary systems [as heard] government officials, including me, said that after the treaty is signed some legal acts will have to be amended and brought in line with the treaty. Every treaty in general—why are we dwelling on the treaty with Russia?—every treaty should be submitted to ratification by the legislature."

Asked by the reporter what measures he would suggest to resolve the dispute if the legislature declines to ratify the treaty, Kebich says: "I would propose seeking advice from the people. There are various ways to do this—an opinion poll, polls in separate territories, and other forms. This should not necessarily be a referendum. Please, do not say that Kebich suggested holding a referendum on the day of presidential elections. These are futile fabrications of all those who want to trip me as a candidate for president. One should not think that

Kebich worked here alone—the entire government did. I am not a naive person, and I know perfectly well that it would not be quite ethical and correct to tamper with the Constitution days after its adoption. That is why, having signed the treaty and having made it the groundwork for further negotiations, we did everything not to violate the Constitution. At the recent CIS summit, both I and Mechyslaw Hryb talked to Boris Yeltsin and asked him to do everything not to make us meddle in the Constitution."

Commenting on the future effects of the treaty, Kebich says: "The exchange of 200,000 Belarusian rubles in cash and 1,000,000 in bank savings accounts is a one-time thing," and underlines the more permanent effects. He points out that even if the treaty fails to bring about a reduction in retail prices it would be a "tangible victory" if further increases in prices were prevented while wages continued to grow: "To increase wages, our enterprises have to start working. To do this they need a free flow of products. The treaty facilitates free shipment of every producer's goods to the Russian market. We are not working because we have been flooded with products that were once manufactured and could not be sold because of their high cost. Every citizen knows that he will work a full week now, his wage will be constantly growing, and his living standard improving. Through some reason, both journalists and our opponents decline to discuss this aspect of the treaty."

Kebich insists that the issue has been artificially laded with political sense on the eve of presidential elections.

The prime minister then answers questions regarding public transportation problems in Minsk and an increase in prices for postal services.

Asked about his impressions from the CIS summit in Moscow, Kebich says: "I went to Moscow with a hope that a supranational economic committee would be created to step up economic integration among CIS states. However to my regret, this body's status was downgraded. It was formed within the framework of the Consultative Committee and of course it will be unable to perform the full scope of its functions. I am disappointed, but I do believe that the CIS should continue to function."

Industrialists To Support Kebich for President

LD1804202294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Belarus industrialists and entrepreneurs will support Vyacheslav Kebich, current head of republican government, in the forthcoming presidential elections. BELINFORM reports that this decision was adopted by the Belarus Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs at an extraordinary meeting. At the meeting, the confederation approved the government's activity aimed at creating a single economic space with Russia—the treaty on merging Russia's and Belarus' monetary systems—and proposed to submit it to a session of the republican Supreme Soviet for examination.

Deputy Views Provisions of New Constitution

WS1904171594 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 6 Apr p 1, 2

[Interview with People's Deputy Valyantsin Holubew by Lyudmila Klaskowskaya on 30 March; place not given: "Valyantsin Holubew: 'Constitution Gives Our People a Chance for Self-Deliverance'"]

[Excerpt] On the birthday of the Belarusian Constitution—on the day of its coming into force [30 March 1994]—we spoke with one of the "fathers" of the fundamental law of our young independent state—People's Deputy Valyantsin Holubew.

[Klaskowskaya] At a news conference held just after the adoption of the Constitution, one of your colleagues said the following: "This Constitution is a product of compromise." Thus, are you not fully satisfied with the results of your work?

[Holubew] Even though I was one of the authors of the Belarusian Constitution, I did not vote in favor of its adoption. Why? I think that the Supreme Soviet took the wrong approach, having put three chapters to a vote—chapters on the presidency, parliament, and bodies of local self-government—without any discussion. There are problems there, and I think that these problems will crop up again in the future. However, I refused to vote only because I wanted the Constitution to become better.

In general, while assessing the Constitution, it should be stated positively: It is a high-class law which we have never had before. I mean, in this century; in the past, the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania [law code adopted in 16th century] was a document of the highest legal order, which was used as a fundamental law by even some European countries.

The new Constitution includes practically all the world's democratic legal norms. In the future, some amendments may be introduced, but its foundation—I mean the chapters "On the foundations of constitutional order" and "On individual, society, and state"—are stable. Our fundamental law has absorbed basic ideas from constitutions of the most advanced nations.

It is a pity that not everything that was planned has been accomplished. I believe that a new Supreme Soviet will go further than that—it will vote in favor of a professional parliament as well as write down that our national flag is white-red-white and our national coat of arms is the Pahonya [knight in pursuit]...

[Klaskowskaya] However, let us return to compromises...

[Holubew] Let us take Article 17, which stipulates that "the official language of the Republic of Belarus is Belarusian." The second part reads: "The Republic of

Belarus secures the right of the free use of Russian as a language of interethnic relations." I think that this could have been omitted. Who has the right to determine in which language people will converse? Suppose, interlocutors can speak English or Polish fluently... it is not a compromise, but pressure on the part of a professional [as published] majority.

Life has amended the Constitution in the process of its drafting. Thus, the first version of Article 19 provided for incomplete secondary education. However, what have we attained? Having completed the 9th grade, youngsters are practically sent out into the streets. It is more expedient for the state to keep them under its control until they reach full age. The new Constitution guarantees available and free general secondary education for everyone.

[Klaskowskaya] The first line of the Constitution—"We, the people of the Republic of Belarus..."—makes one automatically think of the U.S. Constitution. There have also been reports that you actively used the Constitution of Germany as a starting point for your work. If so, is the final document not a copy of Western constitutions? If not, what is the difference, what is original in the Belarusian Constitution?

[Holubew] I am one of the authors of the preamble to the fundamental law. We have not copied the U.S. version or any other—it came from the heart. It was important to show historical prerequisites for the promulgation of our Constitution. We have noted that we were guided by our historical advancements in the sphere of the constitutional building in Belarus, that is, by our old codes of law, the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the constituent declarations of the Belarusian Popular Republic [issued in 1918], and the Constitution of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic. By this, the distinctiveness of the Belarusian Constitution has been preserved. For the first time, it was certified that Belarusian statehood has an old and distinguished history.

By acquainting ourselves with democratic norms in other countries, we examined the applicability of those norms to our reality. Thus, for example, we have not only recognized the equality of all religious denominations before the law, but also provided that endowing any one denomination with certain advantages is inadmissible. By the way, our fundamental law forbids the activities of religious organizations which can infringe upon state sovereignty, the constitutional order, and civic accord; such a provision is not included in constitutions of other countries. This refers not only to the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, but also to those sects and groups which are being actively advertised on posters in Belarusian cities. Our people have habits, traditions, and a culture of their own, which should be defended by the state.

[Klaskowskaya] It has already become commonplace to cite the example of Stalin's constitution. As known, this document, drafted primarily by Nikolay Bukharin, was attractive and democratic in its outward appearance, but it did not prevent the mustached leader from carrying out genocide against his people. Can you guarantee that our Constitution will not be only a piece of paper for purely ornamental purposes?

[Holubev] There are guarantees in the Constitution. It is stated unequivocally that the only source of state power is the people; the people exercise their power directly, through representative bodies. However, you can find virtually the same statements in the old Constitution. And let me remind you, when the people tried to express their opinion in a referendum, the highest legislative body simply ignored it. Is this possible in the future?

I have voiced my anxiety about an incomplete match between the chapters regarding parliament, the presidency, and local self-government. I think that legislative elections should precede presidential ones. Just imagine a democratic president assuming this high post, while there still remains the old parliament which objects to him and boycotts every one of his resolutions...

[Klaskowskaya] As is known, the introduction of a presidency in Russia was followed by a harsh conflict between the branches of power, which finally turned into a bloody confrontation. Are we insured against such a danger?

[Holubew] I would not draw any parallel between Belarus and Russia. Belarusians will not allow civil war to break out in their country. The creed of the Belarusian Popular Front, of which I am a representative, is to fully obey the law. Our main slogan states that no political achievement can be worthwhile if it has been accomplished by bloodshed.

The Constitution will not be only a declarative document, if the people, as Kupala [Belarusian poet] said, arise from their sleep. This Constitution grants many rights to the people. When Belarusians realize that their deliverance depends not on some politicians or foreign uncles from the ruble zone, but on their own will, then people's woes will recede. Let me recall Kupala once more: "I will fight for freedom with all my heart, I will go for it through fire and water." In short, the Constitution gives our people a chance for self-deliverance. [passage omitted]

IMF Delegation Arrives in Minsk for Talks

LD1904125394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk 19 April, TASS—An IMF delegation arrived in Minsk on Tuesday to discuss articles of the IMF Charter and hold talks on granting Belarus the second part of the credit from the fund of system transformations.

"The Belarussian [Belarusian] Government has taken all the necessary measures to obtain the second half of the credit worth 98 million U.S. dollars," said Natalya Prokopyeva, chief expert of the department of international financial organisations of the Belarussian Council of Ministers. The first part of the credit was granted to Belarus in July, 1993. The credit was intended "for leveling the balance of payments" and using the money mainly to repay Belarussian debt to Russia.

The credit was granted by the IMF for a term of ten years, allowing a delay of 4.5 years. The interest rate is 5.67 per cent a year.

Moldova

Romania Accused of Interference in Moldovan Affairs

LD1904193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1856 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 19 April TASS—A statement of the Romanian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies to denounce Moldovan joining of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the CIS economic union was estimated by Kishinev as an interference in internal affairs of independent Moldova.

Deputy Moldovan parliament speaker and leader of the ruling Agrarian-Democratic Party Dumitru Motspan told ITAR-TASS that the leadership of independent Moldova "does not intend to ask for permission to conclude beneficial treaties and will not tolerate interference in its internal affairs."

Talks With Russia Viewed; Dniestr Leader Cited

PM1904143594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "Chisinau and Tiraspol Seek Compromise"]

[Text] Chisinau—The eighth round of talks between the Moldovan and Russian delegations on the 14th Army has been held in Chisinau. In official language, this means organizing the legal status and the procedure and timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian military formations temporarily present in the Republic of Moldova.

Despite the smiles and the correct formulas from the delegation heads (Russia is represented by special envoy V. Kitayev, while Moldova is represented by A. Tsaran [name as transliterated], ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary), judging by everything, the talks have been difficult. The main point of difference has been the timetable for the withdrawal. The Moldovan side, which had been insisting on July 1994, is prepared to wait another year or two, while the Russian side, without setting any precise timeframe, considers a longer period to be more realistic.

There is one other point on which the sides were unable to reach full mutual understanding. An agreement signed by the two presidents—Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur—stipulates the principle of synchronizing the timetable for the 14th Army's withdrawal with the adoption of legal status for the Dniester Region. And, as the Russian side stressed, it is a question of a joint accord, rather than a unilateral Russian initiative or its interference in another state's internal affairs. But Moldovan Ambassador Tsaran believes that the synchronization principle has not proved its worth and has turned into a brake on the negotiating process.

V. Kitayev expressed the conviction that the Dniester problem would be solved, and Russia is actively supporting the political settlement process. As for the synchronization principle, from his standpoint, it would be far more productive to conduct the talks themselves rather than to complain about unsuitable principles.

The question of creating a military base to replace the 14th Army was not discussed. As for General Lebed and his political activeness, E. Vorobyev, a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman, said that the 14th Army commander is highly valued as a professional and honest general, but people do not approve of his predilection for various political statements. The 14th Army's property—which, judging by the edict from Dniester Region President I. Smirnov, that region claims—belongs to Russia, and the Russian Foreign Ministry has issued an official statement on this score.

But, on the whole, observers made a positive assessment of the last round of talks. From their standpoint there was some progress in this area. In particular, draft agreements on questions of jurisdiction, mutual legal aid, and issues relating to social guarantees for servicemen and pensions provision were initialed. A jointly elaborated methodology for defining the technical timetable for the withdrawal of troops and military cargo from Moldovan territory has been signed. The next meeting is planned for May.

Thus, new realities have emerged in the protracted talks. In this connection our correspondent asked Georgiy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester Region Supreme Soviet, to comment on the current situation.

"The Dniester Region Supreme Soviet expressed its attitude," he said, "in a statement which says that the results of the elections to the Moldovan parliament and an opinion poll show that there is a new sociopolitical situation in the Republic, and that this makes it possible to hope for an end to political extremism at state level.

"In the current Moldovan parliament Agrarians and Socialists make up a bloc with which dialogue is possible. But I am not expecting any immediate results. It will take time to rid ourselves of national-patriotic euphoria and illusions, as well as of the idea that the Dniester Republic was allegedly the artificial fruit of a group of politicians.

"If we cite the will of the people, their view of our region was expressed at the recent elections. Out of 485,000 voters only 6,800 took part in the formation of the new Moldovan parliament. International observers did not record a single instance of any obstacles being erected on our part. Those who wanted to vote could do so.

"Some 1.5 percent made their choice, and that is their right, but the rest of the population, by their failure to participate in the elections, also expressed their will, thereby confirming that the Dniester Republic was created by the people rather than by individual politicians, as people in Chisinau have been claiming hitherto. If the Moldovan leadership realizes its mistake there is hope that there will be a dialogue, although there will be many obstacles to it.

"Chisinau is paying lip-service to the idea of the indivisibility and integrity of Moldova, but in fact our relations have long since moved to the level of interstate relations. If we are one state, then why is a national currency being unilaterally introduced, why are the balance of trade and mutual transactions with us conducted as they would be with Ukraine or Belarus? Or take the loans from the West—of which we have not received a single kopek. Who will repay them? All of us together? We will not stand for that. Just name a single country where internal relations are conducted on this basis.

"M. Snegur's trip to Brussels to sign NATO's 'Partnership For Peace' program is further evidence of our separateness. Moldova is seeking security guarantees there. Who from? From Russia? Ukraine? Of course not. Wouldn't it be better to choose another way—self-demilitarization, as we have long suggested?

"In short, there are many issues. And they require solution. We recognize the integrity of the Republic of Moldova and its external borders, and we are prepared for any compromises, but only up to a certain point. That point has been defined—the statehood of the Dniester Region.

"This is not a whim or a caprice, it is not a question of clinging on to power, as Chisinau makes out, rather it is the only way to deal with our destiny in such a way as to ensure that nobody is ever able—irrespective of the changing political weather in Chisinau—to dictate terms to this region. We will not retreat from statehood. Filling it with content is another matter. This can be decided around the negotiating table, and we are ready to sit down at it."

Natural Gas Supplies to Industry To Be Cut

LD1904165594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Moldova has decided to slash by one-third natural gas supplies to its industrial sector due to the country's huge debt for gas imports, said deputy prime Minister Valentin Cunev.

Moldova cannot repay the debt of 131 billion Russian rubles with money from its treasury, Cunev said in a television program. "The (state) budget is well-balanced and its deficit must not exceed 3.5 percent of the gross domestic product," which prompts a "very simple" solution—"if you can't pay cut down your consumption," he said.

Moldova consumes no more energy today than four years ago but "produces much fewer goods," Cunev said.

He said it would be cheaper for Moldova to buy crude oil in the Middle East and have it refined in Romania. But Moldova does not have enough hard currency to pay for this, while oil-exporters in the Commonwealth of Independent States accept Moldovan goods as payment.

Russia has pledged to provide Moldova with 3.5 billion cubic meters of gas this year, while the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom a few days ago axed by one-third its supplies to Moldova due to the latter's arrears.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Addresses New 'Professional' Parliament

LD1904181494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 75 (565) for 19 April; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Nazarbayev intends early in May to submit to parliament a message with an analysis of the economic situation in the country and his proposals on the way out of the crisis. He made the statement Tuesday at the opening of the session of the new parliament elected on 7 March.

Addressing deputies, the president said that Kazakhstan has for the first time a professional parliament. He expressed hope that all branches of power would cooperate constructively.

Nazarbayev favored the need for further constitutional transformations, including the restructuring of parliament into a two-house one, granting it right to impeach the president and granting the prime minister the right to dissolve the legislature.

Earlier the head of state met a large group of deputies. The president's spokesman, Nurlan Danenov, told Interfax that deputies and the president have similar stands on many points. Nazarbayev favored at the meeting the introduction of private property and the equality by law of those nations living in the Republic.

The institute of strategic studies under the president published in an Alma-Ata [Almaty] newspaper an analytical forecast of the future new parliament. It says that the parliament may work before the presidential elections of 1996 or more if pro-government deputies close their ranks, form a large faction and will successfully confront the opposition.

Analysts believe that pro-government deputies ("People's Unity of Kazakhstan" Union, leader—Nazarbayev, deputies elected on the ticket offered by the president, and leader of bodies of power) may agree to concessions to the opposition.

Presidential experts also forecast that if the pro-government faction is not formed, part of the deputies, if pressurized by the opposition in adopting laws, may leave the parliament. If so, a question could be raised about early elections.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Sign Dual Citizenship Memorandum

LD1904192994 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] As reported earlier, during an official visit to Russia by the President of Kazakhstan, the two heads of state signed a memorandum on the principles of settling issues related to the citizenship and legal status of citizens of Kazakhstan permanently residing on the territory of the Russian Federation and those citizens of the Russian Federation permanently residing on the territory of Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

Nursultan Nazarbayev and Boris Yeltsin have reaffirmed their adherence to widely recognized norms and freedoms. The memorandum reaffirmed the intention to settle the above-mentioned issues by simplifying the procedure for obtaining relevant citizenship by citizens of any of these two countries and their relatives arriving in Kazakhstan or Russia for permanent residency. Thus it should ensure that citizens of one country who are permanently residing on the territory of other state, except for certain cases, enjoy equal rights and obligations.

The document grants citizens of one country the right to work on a contractual basis at works and enterprises of the other country. This is also the case with the military service on the contractual basis.

Also under consideration is the possibility for simplifying procedures related to movements and travel of citizen of one country on the territory of the other country.

The sides would also guarantee their citizens the right to travel without visas; the governments won't level any taxes, impose any administrative restrictions, or insist on the need for registration except for the cases of infringement of the law or departure for a third country. There is also a plan for simplifying the customs regulations related to border crossings between the two countries.

The memorandum also says that conditions will be created that will enable individuals and juridical bodies to carry out currency exchange and financial transactions on the agreed scale from one country to another.

One of the important principles is granting the right to a citizen of one country who is residing on the territory of the other to ownership, use, and management of his property in accordance with the legal acts of the country where he resides.

The presidents of Kazakhstan and Russia reaffirm their intention not to allow on the territories of their countries any action on the part of organization or groups and certain individuals which inflame interethnic tensions or [word indistinct] against individuals or certain groups of the population on the basis of their nationality, religion, or political adherence. An interstate agreement is being elaborated on the basis of these principles. It is due to be ratified after President of both countries sign it.

Supreme Council Elects Kekilbayev New Chairman

LD2004092394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] As has already been reported, five candidates were nominated for the post of speaker yesterday: Abish Kekilbayev, Gaziz Aldamzharov, Sultan Sartayev, Olzhas Suleymenov, and Kuanysh Sultanov. At the afternoon session Suleymenov withdrew his candidature. Today after voting, two candidates had the majority of votes: Abish Kekilbayev and Gaziz Aldamzharov. Ninety-two deputies voted for and 84 against Abish Kekilbayev; and 62 for and 107 against Gaziz Aldamzharov.

So, Abish Kekilbayev was elected chairman of the Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz Army Reportedly Ousting Russian Officers

LD1904115494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek 19 April, TASS—Russian officers complained that they are being ousted from the Kyrgyz Army on the pretext of anti-corruption drive and demanded that Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev restore order in the Army.

Russian officers of the Oshsk garrison located in the south of Kyrgyzstan said in an open letter addressed to President Akayev that recently, departments of the military prosecutor's office have begun to ouster Russian-speaking commanders from the Army "contrary to the will of Kyrgyz Defence Minister Myrzakan Subanov."

"In our opinion, military judicial bodies who have been looking for thieves stealing military and state property among Russian officers believe that if we have not gone home yet we have some sources of income encouraging us to stay. This is nonsense. We remain here because we swore allegiance here," says the letter signed by over 100 Russian officers, which was published by the "KYRGYZSTAN'S WORD" newspaper today. Russian commanders put the blame for the situation in the Army on Chief Military Prosecutor Kubat Kozhonaliyev.

Officers demanded that the president and commander in chief of the Kyrgyz Army Askar Akayev give guarantees that Russian officers will be able to perform their duties under normal conditions.

President Addresses Parliament on Economy

LD1904175394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 75 (565)—Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The idea of a single economic area is being put into practice, if slowly, said Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov. Speaking in parliament, he commended Moscow's recent CIS summit. He said Russia and Kyrgyzstan had signed a cooperation agreement during it, under which Kyrgyzstan is to receive a credit of 50 billion rubles.

Dzhumagulov said that, among the priority measures taken by his government since the beginning of the year, were tighter financial control, abolition of the practice of customs and tax concessions, and increasing local government's responsibility for the execution of the central government's decisions.

Nevertheless, the economic situation remains "extremely grave," the prime minister said. "There are still no efficient economic ties, the mutual nonpayment crisis is continuing, the economy is out of control, and there is a gap between the production and marketing of output," he said. IF Note: President Askar Akayev is more optimistic. He said in parliament on April 13 that the republic's reforms had produced positive results, "pushing forward the ossified, totally state-run economy." There are "reassuring signs of normalization of the economic situation," Akayev said. He said free prices and the tight monetary policy had had a beneficial effect on Kyrgyzstan's social life. People had started taking interest in business enterprise, which had served to increase goods supplies, he said.

"Unless the government in the immediate future raises funds to restructure industry, the latter will destroy itself," Dzhumagulov said.

He expressed especial concern over the bankruptcy problem, complaining that not a single enterprise had yet been declared bankrupt, although a law on bankruptcy had come out. The economy would have no future unless unprofitable enterprises were liquidated, he said.

Another serious problem is the visible trade deficit, which has topped 400 million soms, the premier said. He said the situation where the country is importing more than it is exporting is bringing to naught all the anti-inflationary measures taken by the government, because, in his view, it is the imported goods that are fueling inflation.

For this reason, the government ought to concentrate on measures to stimulate domestic production, he said, vowing once again that all conditions would be provided for small-scale business. He said the government would temporarily reduce taxes to encourage production.

Dzhumagulov also said that this year the government, in its economic policy, would give priority to social objectives. It is for this purpose that the government has set up a fund to support poorer population strata.

He said it was essential to start the development of the Kumtor gold field as soon as possible, which "would not solve all the problems" but "would be a serious help for the economy of the republic."

To the objections of parliament members who had repeatedly demanded that Kyrgyzstan break its agreement on Kumtor, a deposit estimated to contain 516 tonnes of gold, with the Canadian company Cameco and instead put up a tender for its development, Dzhumagulov responded that a tender "would mean nothing but extra expenses and a loss of time."

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov, Yeltsin Hold Talks During CIS Summit

LD1904112094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] During the intervals of the sessions of the CIS council of the heads of states and governments in Moscow, Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, held talks with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

In a meeting which was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding they discussed strengthening and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia.

In addition, Emomali Rakhmonov held talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation; Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Council; Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; and Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Opposition Meets on Venue for Next Round of Talks

LD1904105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0924 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Gavrilov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—The Tajik opposition delegation is holding a conference in Moscow today to draw up its proposal on the venue and date for the next round of talks with representatives of official Dushanbe. It is expected to be held either in Islamabad or in Tehran. According to the Tajik Embassy in Moscow, the opposition does not insist on Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, being there.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the same sources that by and large the Dushanbe delegation positively assesses the results of the first round, at which agreement was reached with the opposition not to allow hostile actions on the Afghan-Tajik border.

The sides have expressed their determination to continue dialogues and to seek a compromise, even though their stands on the agenda remain unchanged. Thus, the Dushanbe delegation still believes it is advisable first to ensure peace on the Afghan-Tajik border and the return of refugees, and then to hold a referendum on the Tajik constitution and presidential elections. On the other hand, the opposition will come to the next round with the same package of documents as before concerning the refugee problem, political settlement in the country, the revocation of the ban on the activities of political parties and movements, setting up a State Council made up of independent persons, and a referendum on the constitution.

The first round of talks between the Tajik authorities and the opposition has been taking place in Moscow since 6 April. On 17 April Hoji Akbar Turajonzoda, one of the eminent opposition leaders, arrived from Islamabad to take part. Also present has been Muhammadsharif Himmatzoda, chairman of the Islamic Rebirth Party. The talks have been conducted with the assistance of Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy in Tajikistan.

First Round of Government-Opposition Talks Success

LD1904171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow 19 April TASS—The first round of inter-Tajik negotiations has reached its major goal of the beginning of a political dialogue between the Tajik Government and the opposition. The negotiations were held under the U.N. aegis and with active participation of the Russian Federation, special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General Ramiro Piriz-Ballon told a news conference here today.

In his words, the Tajik Government and the opposition are determined to find a peaceful solution to the complicated political problems in order to achieve national reconciliation in Tajikistan and restore national economy.

The sides have managed to agree on the agenda and sign an appeal on all sides to abstain from actions that may endanger the results of political negotiations.

It was an important discussion, but the sides understood it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive decision at the first round of negotiations. They will be continued in other places. Iran and Pakistan have offered their territories for further inter-Tajik talks, said Ramiro Piriz-Ballon.

Round One of Inter-Tajik Talks Completed

PM2004091794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Arkadiy Dubnov: "Talks on the Future of Tajikistan: No Success Yet, but Then No Failure"]

[Text] The leaders of the Tajik opposition—Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, former spiritual leader of Tajikistan, and Mukhammadsharif Khemmatzoda, chairman of the Islamic Revival Party—have traveled to Moscow via Islamabad.

They are both authorized leaders of the Tajik opposition delegation at the inter-Tajik talks taking place in Moscow under the auspices of the UN secretary general's special envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon.

The first—Moscow—round of the inter-Tajik talks has ended, having opened on 5 April. Republic Minister Shukurdzhon Zukhurov officially headed the Tajikistan government delegation, the unofficial Tajikistan foreign minister Rashid Alimov, who has been in Moscow for the duration [sentence as published]. The opposition delegation was temporarily headed by Otakhon Latifi, chairman of the Coordinating Center of Tajikistan Democratic Forces in the CIS Countries.

During two weeks of talks behind closed doors the sides managed to agree on an agenda for the subsequent rounds of dialogue. A total of 27 questions are to be discussed, divided into three "baskets." The first concerns a political settlement in Tajikistan and includes the cessation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the Republic, the attitude toward the military formations of various government forces and opposition forces, and various measures contributing to mutual trust. The second agenda "basket" is intended to solve problems connected with the return of refugees and people who were forced to move: guarantees of a safe return home, property matters...

Finally, the third "basket" contains fundamental questions of the future constitutional structure and consolidation of the statehood of the Republic of Tajikistan, a new election law, the holding of elections, a transitional period in the Republic...

In an IZVESTIYA interview at the end of December with former Tajikistan chief justice Turadzhonzoda, he formulated the basic approaches to a peaceful settlement as a result of which the Tajik-Tajik talks finally began in Moscow. The Tajik opposition aknowledged at the time that Russia had geopolitical interests in the region and agreed that Russian peacemaking forces should stay in Tajikistan on condition that their commanders were replaced.

In Moscow now, answering my questions, Turadzhonzoda particularly stressed that they had come to the Russian capital to express their respect for and gratitude to Russia for the part it is playing in a peaceful settlement in their country. The opposition leaders are hoping to meet with Russian leadership representatives in Moscow.

Turadzhonzoda and Khemmatzoda intend to participate in the next rounds of the inter-Tajik talks, which will take place in the Iranian or Pakistani capital, on condition that "top people" in the official Tajik leadership are also participating.

International Groups To Examine New Constitution

LD1904194094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1812 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by KHOVAR news agency correspondent Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe 19 April TASS—A draft new Tajik constitution circulated here today by the KHOVAR news agency proclaims Tajikistan a sovereign, democratic, law-governed, secular and integral republic.

The Majelis Milli (National Assembly—parliament) is the supreme representative and legislative body of the Republic, and the president elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct electoral right in secret voting for a five-year term is the head of state and the executive power.

The text of the document will be sent to specialized international organizations for an examination.

Premier Holds News Conference on Economic Issues

LD1904115094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By KHOVAR agency correspondent Negmat Ochilov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 19 TASS—"Tajikistan strives for a new political and economic system and plans to conduct an open-door policy to pull out of the dire crisis," Tajik Premier Abdulmadjid Samadov told a news conference in Dushanbe on Tuesday.

Replying to journalists, he said that the republic "firmly abides by the position of pooling the monetary systems of Tajikistan and Russia". This notwithstanding, bank notes with national symbols will appear in the republic in May.

According to the premier, they are called upon to serve the needs of the domestic market. This measure is temporary, Samadov stressed, and the reason for it is "that Tajikistan is now at an intermediary stage of pooling the monetary systems of the two states".

The meeting with journalists was arranged in connection with the opening of a national strategic research centre which is called upon to prepare true information on the situation in various spheres and to carry out examination of the most important decisions taken by the republican leadership.

The centre is also instructed to work out the government's position on major economic projects.

'Temporary' Currency To Be Introduced in May

LD2004083294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0551 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] This May, Tajikistan will introduce its own currency with national symbols totally worth about 150 Bn rubles, Tajik Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov told a news conference in Dushanbe Tuesday.

At the same time, the money introduced for the purpose of internal payments and backing the exchange of goods inside the country are a temporary means of payment which will serve until the unification of Tajikistan's monetary system with that of Russia rather than as a national currency. Samadov spoke in favor of immediate unification pointing to the fact that the country was on the threshold of a social upheaval.

Samadov called on the people to wait two more months. He added that Tajikistan had received only 70 out of 120 Bn rubles of Russia's cash credit. Another 80 Bn rubles of a Russian technical credit will be received in the near future. However, unpaid salaries, pensions, stipends, etc. amounted to 174 Bn rubles in the first quarter of the year.

The temporary monetary unit to be called the sum was designed with the exclusive purpose to cover the debts.

After the unification of the two countries' monetary systems, sums will be exchanged in Russian banks for Russian rubles one to one, Samadov was quoted as saying.

Border Guard Chief Promises To 'Rebuff' Opponents

PM1904153794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report Vladimir Berezovskiy: "General Chechulin: Jihad Declared Against Border Guards"]

[Text] Tashkent—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is not calm. As has already been reported, an armored transporter was blown up by an antitank mine in the Pyandzh [name as transliterated] detachment's sector. Lieutenant Aleksey Vladimirov was killed and four servicemen were injured. The mine was laid by subversives from the Afghan side, who had made a hole in the fence beforehand. Days earlier, this detachment's checkpoint had been shelled by four rockets fired from the direction of the village of Vandari Sherkhan [name as transliterated], which is controlled by units of the Afghan 54th Division. The border guards did not open fire in retaliation, so as to avoid casualties among the civilian population.

The Tajik Government has pinned the blame for this provocation on the armed opposition, which, in official Dushanbe's opinion, wants thereby to wreck the talks under way in Moscow. General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of the Russian Border Guards Group, put it even more sharply. He is convinced that this action was planned. And it would have played into the hands of both the opposition and the Afghans if Tajik refugees had suffered from the retribution.

Incidentally, the leadership of Konduz Province recently proposed that Tajik refugees not be prevented from returning home in exchange for deliveries of electricity from Khotlon Oblast. In other words, the refugees have turned into a bargaining chip. The general noted that there is a limit to the border guards' patience. And they will provide a proper rebuff, even despite the fact that, as he put it, Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzod [name as transliterated], one of the opposition leaders, recently called for a jihad against the border guards.

The former official head of the Tajik Muslims, who refused to go to the talks in Moscow, stated in Tehran that the opposition is indeed insisting on the withdrawal of Russian border guards from Tajikistan. Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzod explained his absence from the talks by the fact that Emomali Rakhmonov, the current head of the republic, had not gone to Moscow, nor had other major figures representing Kulyab, which played a decisive role in routing the opposition's combat detachments.

Clash With Militants on Afghan Border Reported

LD2004085094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0725 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 20 Apr—Last night a group of Tajik opposition militants attempted to break through from Afghanistan to Tajikistan in one of the sectors covered by the Pyandzh border guards. In the course of a short armed clash between the militants and the Russian border guards, one of the transgressors was killed and the rest returned to the Afghan bank of the Pyandzh. All was quiet last night on all the other areas of the Tajik-Afghan border. This information was given to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the headquarters of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Rejects Church Intevention in State Affairs

LD1904205494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2001 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] 19 April TASS—"Any attempts to intervene in state affairs will be decisively stopped," said President Saparmurad Niyazov during a meeting with religious workers of Turkemnistan today. He also emphasised that Turkmenistan is a "secular democratic state laws of which give everbody right to freedom of religion."

The head of the Turkmen state called on religious workers to help maintain in the future civic peace and social concord in the country which is the most important condition for fulfilling the nationwide program of "10 years of prosperity." Niyazov also appealed to use the church's authority for waging war against drug addiction, an evil which is beginning to corrupt the youth.

Saparmurad Niyazov announced the creation of a council of religious affairs under the president of Turkmenistan which will consist of Moslem Qazis together with workers of the Russian Orthodox Church.

According to an announcement, the national festival Kurban Bairam (Id) will be celebrated in Turkmenistan for three days from 20 to 22 May.

Development Program Invites Foreign Investment

LD1904135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Frolov]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 19 TASS—Turkmenia is an attraction to foreign investment. Assurances for favorable opportunities for foreign investment were made by Rashit Kodyrov, chief of the department for work with international financial organisations and banks at the Turkmenian Cabinet of Ministers. He spoke on Tuesday at a briefing in St. Petersburg during an annual meeting of the board of governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Turkmenia is a major attraction to foreign investment and capital, Kodyrov said. The purpose of investment is the implementation of priority projects in oil and gas extraction, transport infrastructure, telecommunications, the agrarian sector. This work is preceded by international tenders that proved their commercial expedience and attractiveness on the example of the development of deposits on the Caspian shelf and in Kotu-Tepe. Jointly with large petrochemical firms Amoco, Shell, Chevron and others, joint ventures have been formed that intend to invest up to $100 million into the development of deposits.

Much interest was shown in a report about plans for a gas pipeline to stretch from Turkmenia to Europe via Iran and Turkey. The volume of the deliveries of natural gas through that pipeline will be 25,000 million cubic meters a year. The Turkmenian government plans the construction of a railway to the border with Iran, of the last section of the Transasian line and of a number of highways.

Experts believe that the Turkmenian programme "Ten Years of Prosperity" opens broad opportunities for investment to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to other international financial institutions. The bank, specifically, intends to invest into the projects for the reconstruction of the port of Krasnovodsk, facilities of the textile industry, for the development of the hotel business in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] and in other cities.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Welcomes PRC's Li Peng 18 Apr

LD1904111194 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Li Peng, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Tashkent yesterday [18 April] on an official visit. Uzbek President Islam Karimov and his wife met Li Peng and his wife at the airport. [passage omitted on reception ceremony]

In his speech at the airport the Chinese leader said: I am very happy about my visit to Tashkent, the most ancient and famous city in the world. The visit by Uzbek President Islam Karimov to our country in 1992 began a new chapter in the history of friendly relations between our countries. I hope that the documents that are to be signed during our visit will still strengthen even more those friendly ties and will raise our economic cooperation to a new level.

Welcoming the chairman of the PRC State Council to our country, President Islam Karimov said that Li Peng's visit to our country at a time when our political, economic, trade, and cultural contacts are strengthening day by day and developing [words indistinct] mutual relations between Uzbekistan and China. [passage omitted]

Karimov, Li Peng Stress Developing Ties

LD1904162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1408 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Tashkent, 19 Apr—The development of relations between China and the countries of Central Asia will not be to the detriment of its ties with the other CIS countries, including Russia. This was stated today by PRC State Council Prime Minister Li Peng following the talks which took place with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov this morning at the Palace of Friendship.

"We hope," said the Chinese prime minister, "that the CIS states will maintain friendly relations among themselves and will cooperate for the sake of regional stability and development."

The head of the Chinese Government is in Uzbekistan on an official visit. Tashkent is his first port of call on his marathon tour around the neighboring countries in the course of which he is to visit Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia as well.

Today an agreement was concluded on granting a Chinese loan to Uzbekistan, but the amount is not known. The package of intergovernmental documents signed also included an agreement on air traffic, a protocol on granting material and technical aid to Uzbekistan gratuitously, and an agreement on cooperation between the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties of Uzbekistan.

A representative of the Chinese delegation reported to journalists that Islam Karimov and Li Peng discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional, and international problems. In the opinion of Islam Karimov, Central Asia represents an extensive market with enormous potential. The expansion of Uzbek-Chinese cooperation, he stressed, corresponds to the fundamental interests of the two peoples and also favors regional stability and prosperity.

In his turn Li Peng noted the personal contribution of the president of Uzbekistan to the development of relations between the two countries. Speaking of trade and economic ties, he called the successful activity of the Uzbek-Chinese joint enterprises already operating "just a beginning" and invited Uzbek entrepreneurs to go to China to study experience and expand business contacts.

The Chinese prime minister noted that that there are no fundamental contradictions between the interests of China and Uzbekistan, and cooperation between them can develop on a mutually advantageous basis. He stressed the willingness of China to maintain a regular exchange of views with Uzbekistan and hold consultations on regional and international issues for the purpose of strengthening mutual understanding and trust.

On behalf of PRC President Jiang Zemin, Li Peng invited Islam Karimov to visit China in the second half of this year. The leader of Uzbekistan previously visited the PRC in March 1992.

The entrepreneurs accompanying Li Peng also concluded a number of deals with Uzbek partners in the sphere of the petroleum industry, construction, metallurgy, the textile and paper industries, and electronics. It has been decided, for example, to build a joint enterprise for the production of paper. China will also deliver a line for the assembly of domestic electrical appliances.

Karimov, Li Peng Sign Agreements

LD2004101294 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The official visit of Li Peng, PRC State Council prime minister, to our country continues. [passage omitted]

One-on-one talks were held between Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Li Peng, PRC State Council prime minister. During the visit, questions on the prospects for cooperation between Uzbekistan and China in political, economic, scientific, and technical fields were examined. Talks then continued on a wider scale with the participation of the members of the delegation. Islam Karimov expressed with satisfaction the common stance of the leaders of Uzbekistan and China on many questions. For instance, Uzbekistan and China want the expansion of mutual cooperation and the establishment of friendly relations with neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Li Peng, PRC State Council prime minister, thanked Islam Karimov, for the warm reception given to the delegation led by him on Uzbek land. Since ancient times our lands have been linked by the Great Silk Road; the visit of Islam Karimov to our country opened a new chapter in the relations of China with Uzbekistan, which is friendly and close to us, stated the guest. We have common views on international relations. The Republics, which were for a long time part of the former Union, are closely linked with one another. China considers that it is natural for Uzbekistan to continue its firmly established ties with these republics, for instance with Russia. The economic ties between China and Uzbekistan are also developing normally. The PRC is intending to render humanitarian assistance for saving the Aral and henceforth, it intends to develop cooperation in all spheres, emphasized the esteemed guest.

At the end of the talks, the document signing ceremony was held. Interstate agreements on credits, economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and China, and establishing aviation links between the two countries were signed. Khalilov, Supreme Council acting chairman; Mutalov, prime minister; Aziz Khojayev, state adviser to the president; Sultanov [words indistinct] Usmanov, deputy prime ministers; Saidkasymov, foreign minister; Fazylbekov, Hakim, of Tashkent city and other official figures, and also Guan Hengguang, PRC extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador, participated in the expanded talks and the signing ceremony.

After signing the documents, Islam Karimov and Li Peng met with journalists and answered questions. In the second half of the day, a meeting was held between the Li Peng, PRC State Council premier, and the peoples deputies in the hall of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Press Secretary Urges Signing Peace Agreement

NC1904140294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1011 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 18 (SNARK)—Armenian President's Acting Press Secretary Levon Zurabyan declares that through Azerbaijan's fault the chance to achieve the guaranteed armistice was lost though such chance existed at the Moscow meeting of the CIS members' leaders.

Speaking at today's briefing he also mentioned that Azerbaijan's signing the Russian-sponsored agreement will bring to profits for all the sides: Armenia will be deblockaded, Nagorno-Karabakh will get all the security guarantees, Azerbaijan will get the territories.

Zurabyan also mentioned that the participants of the Moscow summit will supply Russia with the CIS mandate to realize its peacekeeping initiatives in Karabakh.

Answering the SNARK's question on Karabakh participation in signing the agreement, Levon Zurabyan said if Azerbaijan expresses its readiness to sign the agreement the Karabakh representatives' participation will be ensured.

Foreign Minister Starts Visit to Romania

NC1904192194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan began an official visit to Romania 19 April. He will meet with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and convey to him a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

The Foreign Ministry press and public relations service reported that Papazyan will also meet Adrian Nastase, speaker of the Upper House of the Romanian Parliament; Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu; and Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu.

A consular agreement will be signed between the two countries during the visit of the Armenian foreign minister.

Mr. Papazyan will take part in the work of the congress of (?Trans-Moldavia) between 21-24 April.

Meets With Iliescu, Melescanu

LD2004084394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest, 19 Apr—"It is vital for Armenia and Romania to establish good relations," emphasized Vahan Papazyan, foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia, who is in Bucharest to discuss the opportunities for developing bilateral Armenian-Romanian ties and economic cooperation in particular.

In the course of their talks, Armenia's and Romania's foreign ministers stressed the need for a speedy completion of the work on a political treaty between the two countries. Papazyan informed his counterpart on the situation in the Transcaucasus and the latest steps aimed at settling tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh. [Romanian Foreign Minister] Teodor Melescanu presented the main directions of Romania's foreign policy, described the current stage of its relations with NATO and the EC, as well as with neighboring countries. Agreement was reached at the talks to extend cooperation within the framework of international organizations, namely the CSCE and the UN, and to extend cooperation in the Black Sea area.

The need to further relations was also emphasized at the 19 April reception for Armenia's foreign minister by Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The two sides discussed conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to the settlement of which both Armenia and Romania are committed. "We tried to find common viewpoints on these problems," noted Papazyan, who passed to the Romanian president a message from the president of Armenia and an invitation to visit the country.

On 18 April, the Armenian ambassador to Romania presented his credentials to the Romanian head of state. The official opening of the Armenian Embassy in Bucharest is to take place in the next few days.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Reports Major Armenian Offensive

LD1904124194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Azeri President Heydar Aliyev has reported that the Armenian offensive in the zone of the Karabakh conflict that was launched right after the CIS summit ended in Moscow, "is the strongest one over the past period."

Addressing a conference in Baku with the government members and heads of the local administration, the president said that the "force and the character of the Armenian military operations indicate that the Armenians get military support from the outside." "Their military operations are being prepared by professional military experts," said Aliyev.

He said that the Azeri army rebuffs the aggressor. Azerbaijan has only one way out—to defend itself and strengthen the country's defense potential.

He ordered that military commissariat to recruit additional soldiers within 10 days. Aliyev said that by his decree he dismissed three leaders of local military departments. The president ordered that the defense minister demote these chiefs and send them to fight on the frontline.

The president said that from now on the branches of the "power" ministries in the regions should be subordinate to the heads of the local administration. He said this was being done to improve the interaction between the representatives of the administrative-states local bodies.

Stresses Severity of Offensive

LD1904172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Head of State Geydar Aliyev told a meeting of the presidential staff that the Armenian offensive which began in the Karabakh conflict zone straight after the CIS summit in Moscow was "the worst of recent times." The president said "the character of the offensive proved that the Armenians are receiving outside help."

The Azerbaijani leader considers the fact that the Armenian attack began the day after the meeting of heads of states in Moscow was proof that the negotiations process was being used as a tactic to "prepare and step up aggression."

Aliyev pointed out that the "Azerbaijani army was doing more than ever before to rebuff the aggressor."

The president again called for stronger measures to defend the republic. He had in mind the radical upgrading of army discipline above all. He said the military enlistment offices in all districts should improve and resolve all aspects concerning the army call up. He referred to the many signals received on serious irregularities in that area, and said there would be a presidential decree to merge the three heads of the district military enlistment offices. The defense minister would, under the document, be instructed to send military commissioners guilty of irregularities to the front line and demote them.

The Azerbaijani leader said that henceforth all personnel issues connected with the activities of enlistment offices would be resolved by the presidential staff on presentation by the defense minister. He requested the state councillor for military affairs to assess the suitability of personnel in the enlistment offices within a ten-day period.

Aliyev announced that from now the local departments of power ministries in districts would be subordinate to local heads of administration.

The president stressed that Baku would still use every opportunity to settle the conflict peacefully.

As had been announced at the meeting of the heads of states in Moscow, a four-party meeting had been planned on Moscow's initiative with the presidents of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and Robert Kocharian, the chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Committee, who was also in the Russian capital while the summit was being held. However, the Armenia-Azerbaijan meeting did not take place due to disagreements surrounding the settlement plan for the Karabakh conflict.

One top member official in Aliyev's staff told INTERFAX that the meeting of the CIS heads of state in Moscow on April 15 had been marked by increased political pressure from both Russia and Armenia on Azerbaijan with a view to securing the latter's consent to the Russian initiatives.

INTERFAX's interviewee said that the Russian side had hinted that if Russia's plan was not accepted, "Azerbaijan could lose a few more districts."

The official did say that Baku's official line on the Moscow initiative was "by and large positive." However, he stressed that the Moscow plan would be fully accepted only in the event demands for the release of Azerbaijani territories seized and the return of refugees, to Nagorno-Karabakh, Shusha and Lachin in particular (the latter are towns in Nagorno-Karabakh which were populated by Azerbaijanis before seizure by Armenian soldiers) be satisfied. The official pointed out that the Russian plan lacked any reference to the return of refugees to these populated areas.

He concluded that the CIS summit in Moscow had demonstrated yet again that "Azerbaijan must rely on its own strength to free occupied territories."

(INTERFAX Note: Levon Zubranian, advisor to the Armenian president, is of the view that the CIS summit in Moscow on April 15 provided an "excellent chance to achieve peace in Nagorny Karabakh which, regrettably, was lost through Azerbaijan's own fault." He continued: "If Azerbaijan were to accept Russia's peace initiative, each party to the conflict would receive what it wants: Armenia the lifting of road blocks, Nagorno-Karabakh the guarantee of safety for its population and Azerbaijan its territory." The advisor assumed that Azerbaijan's rejection of the Russian option for settling the conflict was proof of the desire of the Azerbaijani party "to achieve a settlement by force.")

Attacks Aimed To Force Signing

NC1904150594 Baku TURAN in English 2308 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 18, TURAN—Since the beginning of the Moscow summit of the CIS leaders on 15 April, Armenian armed forces have launched a large-scale attack in the direction of the northern and north-eastern sections of Azerbaijan with the intent of occupying the main sections of the Geranboyskiy [Shaumyanovskiy] and Terterskiy regions of Azerbaijan. This attack was directed towards Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city as well as towards the southern section of the front with the seizure of the city of Beylagan. TURAN was informed by a government official who requested anonymity.

The Azeri leadership thinks that this military plan is aimed at destabilizing the situation in Azerbaijan, thereby compelling Baku to agree to the Russian proposal concerning the Armenian-Azeri conflict. It is widely known that the main terms of the proposal is the stationing of the Russian army in the conflict zone.

During the Moscow Summit government officials of Armenia told Azeri President Aliev that "the Russian army's deployment in the region of conflict will guarantee a ceasefire."

This statement made by the Armenian officials coincides with the statement made by Kazimirov, the representative of the Russian president for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which is pushing for a Russian peacemaking force role in the region.

It is widely known that Baku insists that the separation forces should consist of international units and act on the basis of United Nations and the CSCE mandate.

Heavy Fighting Reported

LD1904121594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] There was heavy fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Azerbaijani parts of Nagorno-Karabakh in the north and northeast over the past twenty four hours, the press center for the enclave told Interfax.

Karabakh units on Monday beat off the Azerbaijani advance to the east of the administrative center Mardakert regaining strategic points outside Lenivan.

The center put Azerbaijani losses at more than 80 troops, one tank and one APC [armored personnel carrier]. Five Armenians were also killed and 17 others injured. One Armenian APC was destroyed.

There was no fighting overnight with positional battles being reported by 11:00 on Tuesday.

For its part, the defence ministry in Baku reports about a further Armenian advance in Ter-Ter and Geranboy regions of Azerbaijan north of the disputed territory. Armenian forces lost two tanks and one APC after last night's fighting there, according to Baku. One Armenian tank and one APC were also hit during battles in Agdam region.

The ministry said that dozens of Armenian soldiers were killed or wounded.

Report Details Fighting

NC1904131194 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0400 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Text" of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Press Center military communique, dated 18 April]

[Text] The Armenian military forces based in northern Karabakh tried to launch several attacks with their tank units against Terter yesterday afternoon, 17 April. The Azerbaijan military units obstructed all the enemy attacks on the same day. They [words indistinct] two of the enemy armored vehicles.

The Armenian military forces renewed their tank attacks on the night of 17 April. They also engaged large infantry units in the fighting. Violent clashes took place until 0800 this morning, 18 April. The enemy's onslaught was obstructed and [words indistinct]. Five Armenian tanks, a PDM [expansion unknown], and some 90 enemy troops were destroyed in the fighting.

Iranian Envoy Calls for Armenian Pullout

NC1904194294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian by Gulsafa Ahmadova; date and place not given—recorded; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Following Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's televised address to the nation [on 12 April], the people, various international organizations, and foreign embassies in Baku have declared that they are not indifferent to Armenia's aggressive policy. Our correspondent Gulsafa Ahmadova interviewed the Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian for our program:

[Ahmadova] In his address to the nation, the republic's president, Geydar Aliyev, called on international organizations and neighboring states to express their firm stance and views on ending the recently intensified aggression by Armenia.

[Nahavandian] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yes, both sides asked for the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran has exerted efforts on this issue and, as you will remember, our foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has worked hard on this case. Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi visited and held talks in Azerbaijan, Armenia and this region for a month. But regrettably, at that time certain forces both in Azerbaijan and Armenia were waging a political struggle against their own people and used the sacrifice the people's lives and their countries' stability for their own political interests. And so those endeavors got no results.

There would have been fewer losses had there been peace two or three years ago. This war should end peacefully, but it should be a just peace, that is, these aggressive forces should withdraw from the territory they have occupied. I think that violations of borders and changing of geographical boundaries should definitely not take place in our era. Therefore, from the very first day the Islamic Republic of Iran has opposed this aggression, issued many statements against it, announced its firm position on it, and proposed to constrain this aggression. It will continue doing so.

Nagorno-Karabakh Aide on Situation, Outlook

PM1904151394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Arkadiy Gukasyan, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic foreign minister, by Igor Lenskiy; date, place not given: "Safety Fuse of the Unrecognized"]

[Text] [Lenskiy] How is Karabakh, with its 150,000-strong population, opposing 7 million-strong Azerbaijan?

[Gukasyan] Have you seen the movie "300 Spartans"? Then you will understand. There are several factors which explain the Karabakh phenomenon. The main thing is that we know what we are fighting for. We have nowhere to retreat to, we have no other land. Every inhabitant of Karabakh understands that if he loses heart, tomorrow he will not have either a home or a family. We are being confronted by Azerbaijanis who are being brought by force to the front from Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovabad. They personally do not need Karabakh at all, they are waiting for a suitable moment to desert from the army...

So you should not put our successes down to Armenia's support.

[Lenskiy] Where are you getting your weapons from?

[Gukasyan] We are grateful to Azerbaijan for punctilious "supplies." Eighty percent are trophies. We buy the rest. Where, from whom, and how much for—these are just details.

[Lenskiy] Arkadiy, are you received by officials in Moscow? After all, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is not recognized by Russia....

[Gukasyan] Allow me to make no comment. If I answer, they will immediately stop receiving me.

[Lenskiy] Last fall direct Azerbaijani-Karabakh talks began in Moscow. How long did they last?

[Gukasyan] Yes, I conducted a dialogue with A. Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet. Unfortunately after H. Aliyev was officially elected president, direct contacts came to an end.

[Lenskiy] You have just come back from Prague, where talks are going on within the framework of the CSCE. Has any progress been made?

[Gukasyan] To be honest, progress has been insignificant. We reached agreement on confidence-building measures toward a cease-fire.

[Lenskiy] And what about the actual cease-fire? After all, this was envisaged in the February agreements at the quadrilateral talks at the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense. Even the date was named—as of 1 March....

[Gukasyan] The agreements were not implemented. Primarily because Azerbaijan does not agree to the plan proposed by Russia to bring peacekeeping forces into the dividing zone.

[Lenskiy] Let us suppose that Azerbaijan agrees to this plan. In that eventuality, are you prepared to give up the seized territories beyond Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Gukasyan] We do not claim Azerbaijani land. However, we will not retreat from the occupied positions until the irreversibility of the peace process is guaranteed. We must be sure that we will not be subjected to a blockade again and that communications will be opened. Our principle is: "No" to a cease-fire without the presence of independent observers, and "no" to the withdrawal of troops without the stationing of peacekeeping forces.

[Lenskiy] Is the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic a democratic state?

[Gukasyan] We have all the attributes of power. We have a Supreme Council elected by the people, a government, and laws, and a draft Constitution is being prepared. However, while war continues, all the strands of administration are concentrated in the State Defense Committee, as was the case in the USSR during the Great Patriotic War.... Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have even been preserved in Karabakh. We think that these forms are optimum.

[Lenskiy] What currency do you have?

[Gukasyan] We are open to all currencies. The ruble, dirham, dollar.... We are not even opposed to the Azerbaijani manat.

[Lenskiy] Are there any non-Armenian inhabitants left in Karabakh?

[Gukasyan] Yes, there are Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks, Jews—altogether they make up around 7,000-8,000 people. It must be borne in mind that when part of Karabakh was controlled by Azerbaijan, a lot of Russians were deported.

[Lenskiy] What is your attitude to the national liberation struggle of the Abkhazian people?

[Gukasyan] You may see this as a joke or else as something serious, but an original idea once came into my head: To create a Union of Unrecognized States. After all, by and large we have one aim—to live as we want. So that the states into which attempts are being made to incorporate us by force should not impose their will on us. Of course, we sympathize with the sentiments of Abkhazia, the Dniester Region, and Crimea. We have the appropriate contacts. If the occasion arises we can advance in a single diplomatic front.

[Lenskiy] Is Karabakh's future within Armenia?

[Gukasyan] I see the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as an independent state. Although I do not rule out a situation whereby Karabakh may become part of Armenia.

Meanwhile...

The CIS heads of state have adopted a protocol decision at a meeting in Moscow, which, on behalf of the CIS, transfers to the Russian peacekeeping initiative the mandate for the settlement of the conflict over Karabakh.

Bomb Found on Baku Train, 2 Suspects Detained

NC1904183094 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] According to information provided by the National Security Ministry, a high-powered explosive device in a cardboard box was found and defused on the No. 5 Baku-to-Moscow passenger train during a joint search by the employees of the republic's National Security Ministry and the Interior Ministry at Baku train station some days ago. Two citizens suspected of the sabotage act were detained. The National Security Ministry's investigation department has instituted criminal proceedings and launched an investigation.

Georgia

North Caucasian-Abkhazi Meeting 'Postponed'

LD1904125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Initially scheduled for Thursday [21 April] in Krasnodar, a meeting of North Caucasian and Abkhazi leaders has been postponed indefinitely. As Interfax has learned from the Krasnodar- based organizing committee, the meeting was put off because of the Russian Foreign Ministry's insistence on getting the Georgian leadership's consent for such an assembly first.

Meanwhile, as an Interfax correspondent reports, at a conference in Krasnodar on April 16-17, the working groups of experts drafted for the upcoming meeting a political statement on the mechanism for the functioning of peacekeepers in Abkhazia.

Security Service Sets Up Assault Landing Group

LD1804120394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Tbilisi, 18 [dateline as received]—An IBERIA correspondent has been told by the press center of the Georgian security service that the first squadron [aseuli] of an assault landing brigade took an oath of loyalty to the motherland at the security service's military unit yesterday. [passage omitted]

This is the first step in creating a military branch of the Republic of Georgia's security service.

South Ossetian Parliament Elects New Chairman

LD1804160794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tskhinvali, 18 Apr—The headquarters of the peacekeeping forces deployed in Tskhinvali told an Iberia correspondent that, today a session of the so-called South Ossetian Supreme Council was held. Following the elections, communists obtained 24 seats out of a total of 34, the National Unity Party got 6 seats, and 4 seats went to representatives of various public organizations.

Ludwig Chibirov was today elected chairman to the state Nikhas [South Ossetia's parliament].

Prisoners of War Exchanged With Abkhazia

LD1904120994 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Zugdidi, 19 Apr—An IBERIA correspondent reports that a meeting was held on 18 April between the Rescue Corps' commission for the exchange of prisoners of war and Abkhaz representatives. The Georgian delegation included commission leader Paata Zakareishvili and Gia Baramidze, a deputy in the Georgian Parliament. The meeting was held in a calm atmosphere. An exchange of prisoners took place.

The Georgian side would like to thank the Abkhaz representatives, especially Rusudan Kishmaria and Vitaliy Adleiba, for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

Police Chief Killed in Shooting Incident

LD2004082994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Dear, listeners. Another terrible incident took place in Saburtalo Rayon [in central Tbilisi] just a few minutes ago.

Police Lieutenant General Gia Gulua, head of the republic's Transport Police Directorate, was riddled with bullets from an automatic weapon. Lt-Gen Gulua was in a car during the incident.

Paper Publishes Accord on Return of Refugees

AU1904134694 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Apr 94 p 2

["Quadrilateral Agreement on the Voluntary Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons," signed in Moscow on 4 April]

[Text] The Abkhazian and Georgian sides, henceforth to be called the "sides," and the Russian Federation and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

Referring to Security Council Resolutions 849 of 9 July 1993, 854 of 6 August 1993, 858 of 24 August 1993, 876 of 19 October 1993, 881 of 4 November 1993, 892 of 22 December 1993, and 896 of 31 January 1994,

Recognize that the right of every citizen to live in the country of his origin and to return there is embodied in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights,

Take into account the 18th (XXXI) and 40th (XXXVI) [Roman numerals as published] conclusions of the executive committee of the UN High Commissioner's program that represent internationally agreed principles regulating the repatriation of refugees,

Act in accordance with the Memorandum on Understanding signed by the sides on 1 December 1993, in particular Point 4, in which the sides declared that they were ready to create conditions for the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of displaced persons to their permanent places of residence in all regions of Abkhazia,

Recall that, in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which the regulations of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees were ratified, the high commissioner assumes the functions of ensuring the international protection of refugees and searching for ways aimed at the final solution of refugees' problems, in particular by encouraging and facilitating their voluntary repatriation,

Recall the obligations incumbent upon the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to act under the guidance of the secretary general as the leading international institution for the repatriation of displaced persons to Abkhazia,

Point out the desire of the sides to cooperate with one another in order to ensure full protection of the principles and guarantees for voluntary repatriation,

Take into account, in this connection, the necessity of forming bases for determining the conditions for such cooperation in order to carry out the repatriation,

Point out that, upon the agreement of the sides, the repatriation operation in Abkhazia envisages that, prior to its implementation, safety and living conditions should be guaranteed in the regions to which refugees will be returning,

Have agreed to the following:

1. The sides agree to cooperate and act together on planning and implementing measures aimed at ensuring the safe, peaceful, and dignified return of those persons to their permanent places of residence who left the conflict zone.

2. In accordance with the aim of this agreement, the sides ensure the safety of refugees and displaced persons during voluntary repatriation and rehabilitation operations.

3. During the implementation of this voluntary repatriation program, the sides undertake to uphold the following principles:

a) Displaced persons and refugees have the right to return voluntarily to their places of origin or residence irrespective of their ethnic, social, or political affiliation in conditions of complete safety, freedom, and dignity;

b) The voluntary nature of the repatriation is determined and ensured by the corresponding agreements;

c) Displaced persons and refugees have the right to return peacefully without risk of arrest, detention, imprisonment or criminal prosecution.

Such immunity does not extend to persons in the event of there being serious signs that:

They have committed a military offense or an offense against the person, as this is determined in international documents; or they have committed a serious criminal offense or earlier participated in military actions and currently belong to armed formations that are preparing for military actions in Abkhazia;

Persons belonging to these categories should be informed through the corresponding channels as to what consequences they can expect to face on their return;

d) The sides ensure that refugees, on their return, have the right of free movement and settlement, including in those regions where they used to live before they left the conflict zone or in regions of their own choice;

e) The sides ensure that refugees and displaced persons, on their return, will extend or renew their passports and registration. These documents will be valid for their previous place of residence or that place to which they choose to return;

f) The sides ensure that persons, on their return, will be protected from persecution, including the payment of unsanctioned taxes or dues and threats to their life and property;

g) On their return, persons will be given back the movable or immovable property that they abandoned or will be given help to retrieve it. Otherwise, the value of the lost property should be given as compensation as far as this is possible.

The commission mentioned in Point 5 will create a mechanism for settling such demands. Such compensation should be provided within the framework of reconstruction and restoration programs that will be implemented with the financial support of the UN voluntary fund.

h) Displaced persons and refugees who do not plan to return to Abkhazia will receive the same assistance and protection until acceptable alternative solutions are found regarding these cases;

i) In accordance with the fundamental principle of preserving the unity of the family, if it is not possible to repatriate all family members, mechanisms for uniting them will be created in Abkhazia. In addition, measures will be implemented to seek out adolescents left without a guardian and other persons in a vulnerable [motsqvlad] state during the repatriation process and additional support and help will be given to them.

j) The sides agree that guarantees will be given for refugees and displaced persons to receive without any hindrance all current information on the situation in the repatriation regions; such information should be given within the framework of a campaign that will be organized by the commission, as stated in Point 9 (b).

4. In order to implement the voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees in accordance with this agreement, a quadrilateral commission will be formed.

5. The main tasks of the commission are to elaborate, discuss, and approve plans for implementing the safe, orderly, and voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons and also their successful reintegration. The commission will also establish the rules of procedure for controlling the application and implementation of Point 3 (c). Such plans should include registration, transportation, basic material assistance within six months, and help with rehabilitation.

In order to guarantee the conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons, the commission will form a working group of experts that will assess the amount of damage done to the economic and social infrastructure in Abkhazia, the existence of homes in the regions to which refugees will be returning, and the level of need regarding rehabilitation and restoration together with the financial consequences proceeding from this. This research should be organized consecutively—region by region—in accordance with the plan for return that has been coordinated and approved by the sides, taking into account that the sides have agreed that the repatriation will commence in Gali rayon.

6. The commission is composed of four members, one each from the sides, the Russian Federation, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition, the CSCE will appoint a representative who will participate in the meetings of the commission as an observer. If circumstances prevent the appointed representative from being present at such meetings, the commission will regularly supply information on the progress of the commission's work to the CSCE mission in Georgia.

7. Any committee member participating in any committee meeting can be accompanied by such advisers whose presence is considered necessary by the side that has appointed this member. In such cases, when this or that commission member is unable to participate in any meeting of the commission, the corresponding side can appoint a replacement.

8. Meetings of the commission will be held when necessary but not more than once a month. Meetings of the commission may be convened at the request of any member and it will be held on the territory of the Russian Federation except in those cases when commission members are able to agree to something else. The sides agree to ensure the personal security of commission members and personnel participating in the implementation of measures that have been agreed upon.

The date for holding the first meeting of the commission should be determined in as short a time as possible but no later than one week after the Security Council has adopted a resolution on the mechanism that will ensure the safety conditions in the regions to which the refugees will be returning.

9. At its first meeting, the commission will establish the procedure for the assessment mentioned in Point 5 and will determine a plan concerning:

a) The regions where repatriation will be carried out, first and foremost, in accordance with the guaranteed security and the level of readiness;

b) An information campaign among displaced persons and refugees aimed at encouraging their voluntary return;

c) The process of registering those persons who have expressed their readiness to return;

d) Measures necessary to ensure the safe return of these persons on the basis of the principles that are stipulated in Point 3 (a-i);

e) The financial and transport needs of displaced persons and refugees and basic material assistance and also the presumed needs regarding rehabilitation and restoration in the places to which they will be returning, as indicated in Point 5.

10. The sides agree that representatives of the refugees and displaced persons should be guaranteed assistance enabling them to visit the places to which they will be returning and ascertain for themselves what conditions are being created for their return.

11. If disagreement arises in the commission concerning the application or interpretation of this agreement, and when such disagreement cannot be resolved in a friendly manner, the commission will empower the sides and the Russian Federation and also the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to resolve such disagreement.

The sides, the Russian Federation, and the board of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees agree to the following:

a) The board of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be able to implement directly and without hindrance measures regarding all displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia that are necessary so that it can fulfill its mandate and also its operational and surveillance obligations;

b) Employees of the UN and other corresponding international and nongovernmental institutions who are cooperating with the UN on implementation of the repatriation, reintegration, and rehabilitation programs will be guaranteed freedom of movement between and inside all regions where there are refugees and displaced persons and also inside regions to which they are returning. This includes the use of air space and designated runways and airports for flights so that emergency aid can be delivered to displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, they [the employees] may be exempt from taxes and duty on all goods imported for their use within the framework of the program of voluntary repatriation and the UN and institutions cooperating with it can provide emergency aid to the region of Abkhazia for purposes of integration and rehabilitation, and also so that such goods can be cleared and processed as soon as possible;

c) The Russian Federation will ensure the unhindered transit of humanitarian aid that is sent through its territory according to the aims of this agreement;

d) The board of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will set up the necessary local departments in places agreed upon by the interested sides in order to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration and rehabilitation;

e) The safety of the personnel and property of the UN and those institutions cooperating with it will be guaranteed;

f) The sides and the UN and institutions cooperating with it will be provided with specially established radio frequencies that they will be able to use permanently in order to maintain radio contact with their departments and vehicles and personnel in the regions where there are displaced persons and refugees and also in those regions to which they are returning.

This agreement comes into force immediately and is valid for the period of time that is necessary for the efficient voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees.

Plenipotentiaries of the Georgian side, the Abkhazian side, the Russian Federation, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have signed this agreement.

Concluded in Moscow on 4 April 1994 in four copies, three of which are in Russian and one in English; the four are identical and the text in English will be used for purposes of clarification.
[Signed] On behalf of the Georgian side—A. Kavsadze,
On behalf of the Abkhazian side—S. Jinjolia,
On behalf of the Russian Federation—B. Pastukhov,
On behalf of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees—Kh. Amunateg

Estonia

Foreign Ministry 'Condemns' Serb Actions in Bosnia

WS1904182694 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 0833 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Immediate release" from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn on 19 April: "Statement in Connection With the Situation in Bosnia"—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Estonia expresses its concern in connection with the increased military activity in Bosnia. The Foreign Ministry condemns the actions of the Serbian armed forces in Bosnia, which are aimed against the United Nations peacekeeping forces and against the "safe areas" declared by the UN Security Council. By ignoring decisions of the UN Security Council and earlier cease-fire agreements, the Serbs in Bosnia set themselves against the international community.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Estonia greatly respects the UN decision to create "safe areas" and expresses its dissatisfaction over the fact that agreements achieved during the peace process are not being lived up to. This is one more indication that the world organization must take even more decisive steps to prevent the spread of the conflict and to achieve a general cease-fire in Bosnia.

Reportage on Prime Minister's U.S. Visit

Talks With Perry

WS1904162694 Tallinn ETA in English 0714 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From 19 April PEVALEHT, p.1; "News Bulletin" No. 74/94]

[Text] U.S. Minister of Defence William Perry described Estonia as a model of success at his meeting with Prime Minister Mart Laar yesterday. The meeting concerned Estonia's main foreign political problems—the Russian troops withdrawal and the U.S. support to the move, Laar told the "Voice of America." Defence Minister Perry stressed that the United States will not be dictated by anyone, how far it can support Estonia in security matters, Laar said.

The security cooperation will include the strengthening of the border guard, the forming of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, equipping the Defence Forces, measures within the "Partnership for Peace" programme and involving Estonian reserve officers of the U.S. armed forces in the training of the Estonian troops.

Laar also met Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and political aids to the Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff and addressed the Carnegie International Foundation. He is to meet Vice President Al Gore today and to sign two important economic agreements which are expected to increase U.S. investments in Estonia.

MP Viktor Niitsoo expressed his concern with the premier's visit, reminding that Latvia had signed the harmful agreement with Russia after the visit of the Latvian premier to the United States. "I believe that our head of government, the government and the Riigikogu [parliament], supported by the people, remain firm and will not allow any obligations to Russian bases or retired military be imposed on Estonia," Niitsoo said.

MP K. Jaak Roosaare claimed at yesterday's demonstration at the Russian naval HQ that the United States intend to donate 10 million dollars worth of military aid to Estonia in 1995. Roosaare referred to a "reliable U.S. Administration official" he had met at his recent visit there.

Further on U.S. Talks

WS2004110494 Tallinn BNS in English 1849 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 19, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, on a visit to the United States, met with Defense Secretary William Perry in Washington Monday [19 April].

The U.S. Defense Secretary at the meeting reaffirmed America's support to the demand that Russian troops be pulled out from Estonia, Laar said in an interview with the Voice of America later that day.

"At the same time William Perry underscored that the United States won't let anybody tell to what extent it should support Estonia over defense issues and how far to go in the bilateral cooperation," the Estonian leader said, adding that the main part of the meeting had been a constructive exchanging of opinions on how this bilateral cooperation is to proceed.

Laar said the United States has plans to assist Estonia in strengthening the country's border guard structures, as well as to work closely under the Partnership for Peace program and in setting up a Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

The PAEVALEHT newspaper in Tallinn reports that Laar also met with Vice-Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, and Peter Tarnoff, aide to the Secretary of State on political issues. The Estonian prime minister made a speech at the Carnegie International Peace Foundation.

Laar and Vice President Al Gore at a meeting today were scheduled to sign two agreements in the field of economy.

Laar is also to meet congressmen, representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The agenda of Laar's visit further includes trips to New York, Boston and Chicago. The Estonian leader is scheduled to read a lecture on Estonia at Harvard University.

The prime minister's delegation includes Foreign Ministry Chancellor Indrek Tarand, a personal secretary to the prime minister, Toomas Kiho. Ardo Hansson, adviser to the Estonian government, is to join later.

Laar is scheduled to return to Estonia on Apr. 25.

Acting Chief of Defense Forces Central Staff Named

WS1904162794 Tallinn BNS in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 18, BNS—Ltn. Col. Arvo Sirel took over as acting chief of staff the leadership of the Estonian defense forces' Central Staff from Col. Ants Laaneots today.

Laaneots, who entered his resignation on March 24, was listed into reserve as of today. Laaneots' resignation was approved by the country's commander in chief, Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln, on March 31.

The new acting chief of staff, Sirel, earlier occupied the position of head of the Central Staff's operative department.

He was now replaced on the post by Ltn. Col. Jaan Poldma.

A spokesman at the Central Staff said Laaneots has not revealed so far what he would do after resignation. According to information obtained by BNS, he has been offered the opportunity to continue his education in Western military academies, as well as a position with the Defense Ministry.

Laar Meets Latvian Counterpart, Affirms Support

WS1904163094 Tallinn BNS in English 1500 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 16, BNS—Estonia has put its full support behind Latvia's position that negotiations between Latvia and Russia cannot continue before the President Yeltsin has officially revoked his April 5 decree on setting up Russian military bases in CIS and Latvia, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said after a meeting with his Latvian counterpart Valdis Birkavs in the Latvian town of Rujiena near the border between the two countries.

Russia by now has said that mentioning Latvia in the decree had been an oversight and that no Russian military bases are to be set up in Latvia. Russia has also defined the Skrunda radar base as a civilian facility.

Laar in an interview with BNS said that the situation of Latvia and Russia after the Yeltsin decree has changed and that resuming negotiations between the two countries cannot be talked about until Yeltsin has "clearly and unambiguously" revoked his decree.

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs at a press conference after the meeting said changes are to be made, though, in the agreement concluded between Latvia and Russia at the governments level on the social protection of retired Russian military.

Birkavs said his country's position on the issue was that all retired military under 60 years of age have to leave Latvia. A special foundation for this is to be set up, he added.

The premier said about 8,500 retired Russian military under 60 are currently living in Latvia without having the country's citizenship.

The two prime ministers discussed Estonian-Russian relations and working closely between Estonia and Latvia in international organizations. The Estonian leader reaffirmed his country's position of not to go to any concessions at talks with Russia.

"Estonia won't back even a single step and will abide by the existing laws," he said.

The meeting also discussed signing an additional protocol on farm products exports to the Estonian-Latvian free trade treaty. The issue is to be again discussed at a meeting of experts from the two countries in the Latvian capital in the middle of the next month.

While discussing the customs issues, the Latvian premier said that the Baltics must do everything to cut back to a minimum the tariffs on the borders between the three countries and step up controls on the eastern border instead.

Other topics on the meeting's agenda included the borders, and marking down of the land border. The prime ministers considered the possibility to temporarily suspend marking the border between the countries for a high cost of the work.

The delegations for Friday's talks included foreign ministers Juri Luik and Georgs Andrejevs.

The prime ministers of Estonia and Latvia are next scheduled to meet in Tallinn in the first half of June.

Opposition Seeks New Delegation for Russia Talks

WS2004105894 Tallinn BNS in English 1619 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 19, BNS—The opposition Centrist faction in the Estonian parliament today submitted to the legislative body a draft decision on setting up a new 10-member delegation for the country's talks with Russia.

The draft foresees that nominations for the new delegation would come from the parliament speaker's office within five days after adoption of the decision by the legislative body.

The same draft proposes to the government to recall the current governmental delegation for the Russian talks after the setup of the new delegation is approved.

Centrist faction members say their move was called by the talks between Estonia and Russia having run into a deadlock, which, they say, is caused by the Estonian delegation's unclearly determined status, lack of authority and of flexible tactics, as well as by insufficient preparedness.

The opposition politicians point at what they call dangerous tendencies for Estonia at the talks, where the border issue is being resolved by ignoring Estonia's interests, concessions are made as to the fate of the retired Russian military, and that the agreements already signed may "provide for the remaining of a part of the Russian army in Estonia for another three years."

The Centrist faction says the new delegation should receive its powers from the parliament. It must include people who "know Russia," today's statement says.

Centrist Party member Hardo Aasmae in his comments to BNS called the tactics used by the current delegation wrong. He said the delegations at the talks should start from decisions over which a compromise is possible. A moratorium should be imposed on other issues so far, Aasmae added.

He said it is most important at present to reach an accord with Russia on the troop withdrawal, establish the status of Paldiski without letting it be declared a special area, as well as to resolve a number of economic issues.

Aasmae suggested that Endel Lippmaa, a minister for Eastern relations without portfolio in the government of the country's former Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, should be appointed the head of the delegation. Savisaar is the leader of the Centrist Party.

"A situation has emerged currently at the Estonian-Russian talks when virtually no political delegation exists; there are only work groups. This provides to Russia the possibility to use protraction diplomacy. If we manage to set up a broad-based political delegation, it must above all make changes happen in the Russian delegation and its powers," Aasmae said.

He said a breakthrough at the talks will come when one of the parties is put in a situation when it is no longer possible to postpone decision.

Latvia

Ulmanis Gives Speech on Ties With Russia

LD1904223994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] President of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis spoke on national radio and television on Tuesday evening. First of all Guntis Ulmanis once more emphasized the prerogatives of his action as state president:

[Ulmanis] "This evening I will speak about our country's foreign policy. A person thinks little about it every day, and still less tries to associate himself directly with the settlement of foreign policy issues. Right after being elected to the post of president, I said that the priorities of my work in foreign policy are linked with Baltic unity and relations with Russia, although even at that time, half a year ago, I understood that they would not be easy priorities, especially where Russia is concerned. Yet today we have come to confront problems from which we cannot retreat, but forward movement demands certain sacrifices."

[Announcer] Continuing his address, the president stated his attitude to the agreements initialled on 15 March by Russia and Latvia.

[Ulmanis] "I would like to express my stance on the issues all the more because, as our philosopher Vilnis Zarins said in his letter to me, when a decision is taken, one must stick to it strictly and unflichingly, knowing that one will be cursed anyway. At this moment I defend the creation of active and energetic relations with Russia. I mean here to their full extent, in both political and economic relations, because obviously, as a result of a passive foreign policy, we will be the losers, just as this would also create economic impoverishment for our nation. In relations between countries, especially if their border is long and their forces unequal, the only way is to draw closer, to understand, to be farsighted, to seek compromise, at length, patiently, both gaining and losing."

[Announcer] Speaking about the possible meeting of the two countries' leaders, which may take place on 21 April, Guntis Ulmanis said:

[Ulmanis] "I call on the Russian president to seek ways to make it possible for the Latvian and Russian presidents to meet. This morning I invited Aleksandr Rannikh, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Russia to Latvia, for a conversation, and I put to him a proposal to meet the Russian president. I also received the same kind of proposal from Yeltsin's side. Perhaps a coincidence? I think not. It is necessary to openly state one's views, about the possible signing or non-signing of the initialled agreements; to achieve clarity about the announced creation of a military base in Latvia, at Skrunda; and to try to draw a line over the heavy injustices of history relating to the occupation of independent Latvia in 1940 and communist genocide in 1941 and later years. I will call on President Yeltsin to seek opportunities to settle our mutual relations as equal sovereign neighbors, and to cease putting forward pretexts for not talking to us, or for talking on from positions of power."

[Announcer] The president also expressed his prognosis on how the possible meeting of the two presidents will go.

[Ulmanis] "I will speak in favor of signing three agreements, at the same time creating a group of experts to specify the basis of the fourth agreement, on the social guarantees for the remaining military personnel and their families. In the form that this agreement currently takes, in my opinion it is not acceptable to the majority of the people, not acceptable to me personally either. In my opinion Latvia and Russia must continue to seek the way of mutual understanding, so as to achieve at government level agreement on the future destiny of retired military personnel, in the next 10 days."

[Announcer] Concluding his speech, the Latvian president once more commented on his recent visit to three western European countries in the context of the initialled interstate agreements:

[Ulmanis] "I will not be able to understand my people if I do not regularly meet people in towns and in the country in Latvia. But in turn the world will not recognise Latvia, its people, if we do not talk about it in other countries, if we are unable to show Europe the force of the spirit of the Latvian people, its love of work, and its enterprise. Within the Latvian constitution, this is first the president's duty, and I will fulfill it too.

"The important issues we spoke about with politicians in three foreign countries: The guarantees that Europe can give Latvia, and to what extent Latvia for its part is able to fulfil the demands put by Europe; the creation of a repatriation fund, to promote the departure of retired military personnel from Latvia; the status of the Skrunda radar station, and the negative effects of its operation on people and nature in Kurzeme; and the last thing we talked about: What are really the opportunities for the Latvian people and prospects for strengthening Latvian statehood.

"On all these issues, in my opinion, a certain understanding was reached. Security is to the greatest extent dependent on how we strengthen the unity of the three Baltic countries and create relations with Russia. By signing agreements with Russia, an opportunity will open up to put Latvian-Russian relations in order, in the first place making them subject to international controls. I am fully aware of my responsibility for what happens to the Latvian nation tomorrow. I said that when meeting in Europe, seeking the support and understanding of Denmark, France, and Britain. And everywhere I received an unequivocal response: Europe will not abandon the Baltic lands any more. 1939 must not be repeated."

[Announcer] As Latvian radio has already reported, on Tuesday when the president met with leaders of factions in the Saeima, Guntis Ulamnis received support for talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. However, a final decision on the status of this meeting—whether it will only be talks or whether there will be a signing of agreement—will be taken by deputies at the extraordinary plenary sitting of the Saeima on Wednesday.

Ulmanis Invited to Moscow

LD1904105194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] At the invitation of State President Guntis Ulmanis, Aleksandr Rannikh, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Latvia, today met the Latvian president. The ambassador orally conveyed Russian President Yeltsin's invitation for the Latvian president to pay a working visit to Moscow on 21 April and to sign earlier initialled agreements.

Our president expressed his thanks for the invitation, explaining that he considers such a visit to be useful because there are many issues concerning Latvian-Russian relations which need to be clarified, especially those related to the order of 5 April.

Talks with Boris Yeltsin at which an exchange of opinions and coordination of views concerning the initialled agreements and the prospects for future relations between Latvia and Russia would have great significance on the international scale.

The Latvian president recalled that the Saeima will discuss the possibility of signing the agreements at tomorrow's extraordinary plenary session.

The situation in the countries of the former USSR and the latest events on the territory of former Yugoslavia may also be discussed at the talks with the Russian president.

A reply from the Latvian state president on his possible visit to Moscow will be given to the Russian ambassador later today.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Meets U.S. Officials

WS1904162294 Tallinn BNS in English 2100 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 18, BNS—Latvian Saeima (parliament) Deputy Speaker Andrejs Krastins met on Monday [18 April] with U.S. State Department's political experts Julie Cohen, Martin Schwartz and U.S. Embassy in Latvia Secretary Scott Dean.

The group discussed relations between Latvia and Russia and problems related to Latvia's draft citizenship law.

Krastins also pointed to shortcomings in the initialed Latvian- Russian agreements on troop withdrawal.

The package fails to demand compensation for Russian damages to Latvia, allows Russian forces to retain ownership rights on real estate and tolerates foundation of Latvian-Russian joint ventures on the basis of former military installations, said Krastins.

Krastins reiterated that Latvia is interested to receive international guarantees for the process of the signature of the troop withdrawal package and the control of its implementation.

Dean voiced his country's support for the conclusion of an interstate agreement that would fully resolve the issue of Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia.

Lithuania

Border Defense Role Given to Interior Ministry

WS1904162094 Tallinn BNS in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 18, BNS—The Lithuanian State Defense Council, headed by President Algirdas Brazauskas, on Monday [18 April] decided to hand over the State Border Defense Service within the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry.

The step was made in accordance with international practice and because the situation on the country's borders has become critical, the president's spokesman said.

Until now, the border service was subordinated to the Ministry of Defense.

Former Soviet Military Ruled Illegal Immigrants

MK2004093094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Petr Sergeyev report in the "Lithuania" column: "Some 800 Former Russian Military Will Be Stripped of Lithuanian Citizenship. They, in the Opinion of Seimas Members, Arrived in the Country Illegally"]

[Text] A group of Seimas members has filed a statement with the Constitutional Court on the incompatibility of the Seimas' 22 December 1993 decree on granting Lithuanian nationality to former servicemen of the USSR Armed Forces with the Lithuanian Republic's Constitution. This decree was adopted as an addition to the 10 December 1991 decree by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet on procedures for enforcing the Law on Citizenship of the Lithuanian Republic which said that persons serving in the USSR Armed Forces and other punitive bodies may not be regarded as permanent residents of Lithuania. The December 1993 decree, on the other hand, states that these persons are entitled to receive a Lithuanian Republic passport if prior to 1 March 1992 they had stopped their service and prior to 4 November 1991 received the temporary certificate of a Lithuanian citizen.

The authors of the statement to the Constitutional Court challenged this approach. Their arguments are as follows: Under the Citizenship Law, a [permanent] resident of Lithuania may be only a person arriving in the country on legal grounds, while the USSR Army and other structures came to Lithuania illegally.

The Constitutional Court found that the Seimas' 22 December 1993 decree indeed contradicts the Citizenship Law and the Constitution of the Lithuanian Republic. The court did not agree with the explanation whereby the definition of the army as occupying may vary depending on the time, or with the assertion that laws of the Lithuanian Republic allow Soviet military servicemen to be citizens of Lithuania or that they were allowed to stay in that service until 1 March 1992.

The fact is that persons serving in the Soviet Army were also citizens of the USSR. Therefore, the Court concluded, if Soviet servicemen prior to 4 November 1991 received a temporary certificate of Lithuanian citizenship and continued to serve in the USSR Army afterward, therefore they twice violated the laws of the Lithuanian Republic: They illegally procured temporary citizenship certificates and actually acquired dual nationality, which is forbidden by the Republic's laws.

Thus, a considerable group of former Russian military servicemen (according to some estimates, approximately 800), who continued to serve in the Soviet Army until 1 March 1992, in accordance with the Constitutional Court ruling, will be stripped of Lithuanian nationality as acquired illegally. They will need to acquire the citizenship of another state in accordance with the established procedures (or remain stateless persons) as well as a Lithuanian residence permit. Under the Constitution of the Lithuanian Republic, this will entail the loss of some political and property rights, in particular suffrage, the right to associate in political parties and organizations, and the right to acquire real estate.

Brazauskas Hits Stereotyped Russian Attitudes

PM1804145594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "Situation of Russians in Lithuania Worsening Through Moscow's Fault, President Brazauskas Says"]

[Text] Strasbourg—Lithuania President Algirdas Brazauskas has stated that Russia is finding it hard to forget the old stereotypes in its relations with its small neighbors. He urged Moscow to abandon the notion of the "former Soviet republics."

Addressing a session of the Council of Europe parliamentary assembly in Strasbourg, Algirdas Brazauskas claimed that it is Moscow's fault that the trade and economic agreement concluded between Russia and Lithuania last year remains ineffective. Despite the accord that was reached Lithuania, like the other Baltic countries, still has not been granted most-favored-nation status.

While claiming that it is protecting the rights of the Russian-speaking population, Moscow is, President

Brazauskas said, using economic levers which are merely aggravating that population's situation. The first to close down in Lithuania will be plants producing output destined mainly for Eastern Europe, the president warned. A considerable proportion of the workers at those plants come from the Russian-speaking population.

Algirdas Brazauskas phoned Viktor Chernomyrdin last Wednesday and asked him to explain this state of affairs. The Russian premier expressed surprise at this situation. Perhaps, he said, some of our departments have not treated this agreement with due seriousness and he promised to send officials to Lithuania to sort things out and to invite the Lithuanian premier to Moscow for the same purpose.

Brazauskas Returns TU, Employment Laws to Seimas

LD1904120494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas has issued an edict by which the adopted laws on the supplement to the law on trade unions of the Republic of Lithuania and the amendments to the law on employment contracts were returned to the Lithuanian Seimas for further discussion.

Earlier the president also returned the law on land to the seimas for further discussion.

Minister on Discord With Security Committee

WS1904110094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 13 Apr 94 No. 71 p 5

[Interview with National Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius by Aldona Svirbutaviciute in Vilnius; date not given: "The Minister Does Not Intend To Resign"]

[Text] There is no shortage of rumors in any sphere. One such rumor is the national defense minister's alleged intention to resign. I asked Minister Linas Linkevicius himself about this. He denied the rumor. We spoke with him about the complicated situation in the national defense system.

[Svirbutaviciute] Mr. Minister, why did you leave the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee?

[Linkevicius] I had to demonstrate my attitude toward this committee and I found no other ways to do that. I do not agree with the committee's style of work or even its political orientation. Some statements by members of this committee were inappropriate for the emerging national defense system and from the international point of view. In many cases, those statements ran counter to the policy of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP]. I think that as an ordinary LDDP member I had the right to disagree with the opinion that the policy of the National Security Committee should be identified with that of the party in this area.

[Svirbutaviciute] The LDDP leadership discussed the situation in the national defense system at its meeting. You seem to have received quite a number of critical remarks....

[Linkevicius] No decisions were adopted then. LDDP Chairman [Prime Minister] A. Slezevicius commented on the results, and the spokesman prepared an official report.

[Svirbutaviciute] What are your relations with former Defense Minister A. Butkevicius?

[Linkevicius] I would say that they are normal. Certainly, they are not linked with the current issues [reference to arms deals] surrounding the former minister. This is the prerogative of law enforcement institutions. Relations between us as ordinary people have been normal and they remain so.

[Svirbutaviciute] Could you confirm or deny the story that A. Butkevicius is seen in Lithuania more often than in London, where he should study? And another issue: It is said that while in Lithuania, he allegedly visits the Army....

[Linkevicius] I could not say anything about his visits to the Army. I see nothing bad in his meetings with former colleagues. I think that statements about his spending more time in Lithuania than in London are too much ideologized. Yes, he does come to Lithuania. I know that he was here for Easter, and intends to come again later. As far as I know, he has a free schedule and may come whenever he pleases.

[Svirbutaviciute] It is not A. Butkevicius alone who is studying the art of war abroad. Do you envision where he could work after his studies?

[Linkevicius] This will depend on him. As he has told me, he has not distanced himself from the national defense system. Currently, he is interested and working in the sphere of crisis management. This is applied not only in the field of national defense. I suppose that everything will depend on A. Butkevicius' plans to use his experience in our state, and on the outcome of his case.

[Svirbutaviciute] How would you comment on these proceedings?

[Linkevicius] The history of this case should be the following: Black deeds—an investigation, and later the conclusion or the court judgment. The public should be informed only after all this. Here everything was done the other way round. I do not like such a practice.

[Svirbutaviciute] Might it happen so that after you leave the post of national defense minister, they will begin to search for your "black deeds"?

[Linkevicius] I have not yet managed to accomplish any of them. I have not had a chance to buy arms, although the Lithuanian Army needs them. One may find much wrongdoing anywhere by searching and abusing the state law. This frightens me not as a minister but as a citizen. In general, we should apply the moral level of big states in our country. To be honest, I find it strange that one clause in our Penal Code allows searches without witnesses. I intend to submit my amendments to the Seimas because I believe that citizens should feel safe in their state.

[Svirbutaviciute] A group of LDDP members criticized you for the showiness in the national defense system and your preoccupation with enlarging ranks and embellishing uniforms. What is your view on that?

[Linkevicius] It is good if criticism is levied with the intention of assisting. I could provide one example. A father scolds and punishes his child because he wants the latter to become an honest man. Sometimes the father strokes the child as well.

In this case, the "group of comrades" [reference to LDDP radicals] is behaving not like with a child, but with prejudice. This is felt not only by me but also by many people who work in the national defense system and who have devoted their entire lives to it.

As for the showiness.... Sometimes I say that the Lithuanian Army may, probably, remain only with a band and a guard of honor. This will be enough for parades but this will not be the Lithuanian Army capable of performing its functions. Unfortunately, the "group of comrades" continues to criticize me and even explains that we need to treat scabies rather than create peacekeeping forces or learn English. However, does the treatment of scabies prevent us from studying English? I do not think so. It is constantly said that we need not buy aircraft. Let Lithuania's aviation become moribund, although the training of pilots costs as much as an airplane, while Lithuania has a large number of pilots. I rate this criticism as malevolent, even though I have long believed that the critics' intentions were benevolent.

[Svirbutaviciute] Do you intend to resign?

[Linkevicius] Not yet. Working conditions are difficult, but one must push on. I also want to be self-critical—the criticism directed to us is partially correct.

Foreign Chief's Aide Suspected of KGB Link

WS2004101594 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 9 Apr 94 No. 69 p 5

[Article by Ricardas Jarmalavicius: "Another KGB Agent or Victim of 'Witch-Hunt'?"]

[Excerpts] The summer of 1986 saw the arrest of a reporter from the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT who was accused of spying. The Americans wasted no time—several weeks later they arrested a Soviet spy—one probationer at the USSR mission to the United Nations. Following strained negotiations between the Soviet and U.S. representatives, an agreement was reached to exchange the detained spies. After the process had become protracted for indefinite reasons, the Kremlin lost its nerve—Moscow accused five U.S. diplomats of "activities incompatible with the status of a diplomat, declared them "persona non grata," and expelled them from the Soviet state.

In early September of 1986, Rimgaudas Malisauskas, who between 1973 and 1979 had worked as the second secretary of the Soviet Embassy consular section in Washington, began his work there as the first secretary. This office was traditionally meant for the Lithuanians—L. Kapocius, V. Zenkevicius, E. Juskys, R. Malisauskas, V. Sakalauskas, and again R. Malisauskas....

Between his diplomatic missions, R. Malisauskas worked as deputy chief of the Propaganda Department at the Lithuanian Communist Party [LKP] Central Committee [CK]. Having graduated from the Russian language department at Vilnius University in 1961, R. Malisauskas climbed his career steps rapidly—a teacher at the penitentiary boarding school in Veliucionys, an instructor at the CK of the Lithuanian Young Communists' League, a secretary of the Union of Youth Organizations, and an instructor at the LKP CK. In 1973, he graduated from the Academy of Social Sciences at the CPSU Central Committee defending the thesis entitled "The Ideological and Organizational Problems of the U.S. Communist Party in the 1960's" and becoming a master of history. Shortly thereafter, he found himself in Washington.

"After those five U.S. diplomats had been expelled from Moscow, my colleagues and I began to look forward to the retaliatory measures of the U.S. Government," said R. Malisauskas. "In mid-October, the U.S. State Department summoned the Soviet charge d'affaires and informed him that five Soviet diplomats were declared 'persona non grata.' My name was not among them. The following day, we found out that the U.S. Government had decided to deport another 50 Soviet diplomats, who worked at the missions in New York, Washington, and San Francisco, explaining that those people exceeded the number of U.S. diplomatic staff in Moscow and Leningrad. That list already contained my name." [passage omitted]

"Among the deported KGB members, there was also one Lithuanian—an agent performing the duties of a Soviet diplomat," read a report by S. Povilas Zumbakis aired on the American Lithuanians' radio program "Homeland Lights" several weeks ago. "Two days before the announcement that he would be expelled from the United States, the aforementioned agent came to us and asked for a certain document from files that listed people who had killed Lithuanians during the first and the second Soviet occupations. He showed a particular interest in some names. Certainly, he received no information. He was advised to check on the files and lists of his KGB 'heroes' and members, and look for the same names there."

"This is a libel of the Zhdanov times, a pure invention and slander," stated R. Malisauskas to a RESPUBLIKA correspondent. "I do not know what the KGB archives have, but my conscience is clear: I have never worked in the KGB. Yes, I have met with S. P. Zumbakis. I remember once being in Chicago to settle consular matters. He invited me to his office for coffee and a conversation. However, what could I want from a lawyer who defended war criminals?! I did not question him about anything because the topic was not important to me."

R. Malisauskas claims that the aforementioned 50 Soviet diplomats were not accused of spying or declared "persona non grata." As proof of that, he mentioned that V. Volkov, who had also been on that list, was heading the consular section at the Russian Embassy in Washington, while another former colleague B. Golovin was working as ambassador in Uruguay. According to R. Malisauskas, diplomats who have been declared "persona non grata" could neither work in the United States and other allied countries nor visit America in general.

Why was R. Malisauskas, who had worked in Washington only for a few weeks, included in this list? R. Malisauskas maintains that he does not know the reason. However, he pointed to the fact that all the expelled persons had worked in the United States not for the first time. [passage omitted]

"I met with the aforementioned agent several times," reads S. P. Zumbakis' report. "His world outlook was extremely clear. This was a communist devoted to Moscow rather than Vilnius."

"I really did not hide then that I was a communist," said R. Malisauskas. "Anyone who was not a communist would have been unable to go abroad. However, I did not even try to advocate the Soviet system among the emigres. In a Lithuanian company, we mostly discussed the possible cooperation with and assistance to Lithuania."

Who coordinated KGB activities among the Lithuanian emigres in the United States then? In reply to this RESPUBLIKA reporter's question, R. Malisauskas said that he was assured that not a single Lithuanian who had worked as a diplomat in Washington, served in the KGB. At the same time, he admitted that more than a half of all USSR citizens with a diplomat's status worked for special services.... R. Malisauskas claims that he did not receive any tasks from the KGB and that he maintained ties with the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and the "Homeland" Society [Soviet organization for contacts with Lithuanian emigres] alone. [passage omitted]

However, R. Malisauskas does not deny that he had to send reports to the USSR Foreign Ministry U.S. Section in Moscow on his conversations with people, the situation not only in the Lithuanian but also in the Russian, Ukrainian, and other communities, in addition to various analytical materials. True, he says that, for example, he never indicated "what people could be recruited by the KGB." In his reports, he would use such terms as "nationalists," "reactionary activists," and so on. He claims that he "could not behave otherwise."

Having been expelled from the United States, R. Malisauskas returned to Lithuania and became deputy chairman of the State Polygraphic and Book Trade Committee. Two years later, he became deputy foreign minister. He worked in this office until the collapse of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1990.

On 24 February of this year, R. Malisauskas began his work as an aide to Lithuanian Foreign Minister P. Gylys. According to R. Malisauskas, this job was offered to him "by the Foreign Ministry Personnel Department—they called me and proposed this office...." R. Malisauskas says that the story of 1986 was the key topic at the Foreign Ministry certification commission chaired by Deputy Minister V. Domarkas. The commission believed in R. Malisauskas' explanations. Minister P. Gylys also asked R. Malisauskas whether the latter had collaborated with the KGB. A negative reply seems to have calmed him, but not for long—until the Lithuanian press published the aforementioned report from the "Homeland Lights" program. R. Malisauskas says that he himself showed the article to the minister. "The time of 'witch-hunts' seems to have ended, but who knows..." muses R. Malisauskas waiting for the official reaction.